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A CONNECTICUT YANKEE in King Arthur's Court

by Mark Twain

No. 24

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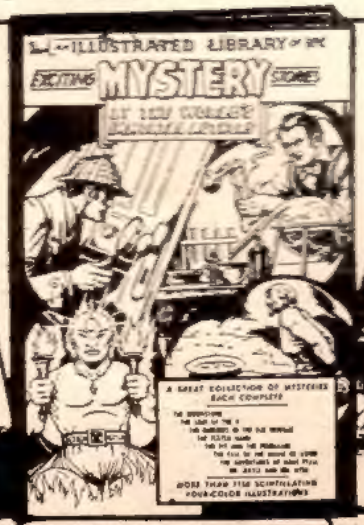

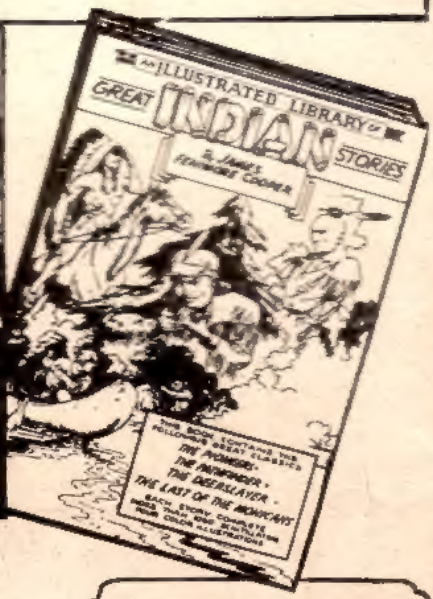

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CLASSICS *Illustrated* . . . SEPTEMBER, 1945 . . Number 24 . . Published monthly except February, May, August and November by GILBERTON COMPANY, 510 Sixth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y. . . . Subscription, $3.00 for 20 issues. Entered as second-class matter March 10, 1943. Reentered as second-class matter March 10, 1944, at the post office at New York, N. Y. under the Act of March 3, 1879. ALBERT W. RAYMOND, Editor; HARRY M. ADLER, Managing Editor.
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A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court

Illustrated by: JACK HEARNE

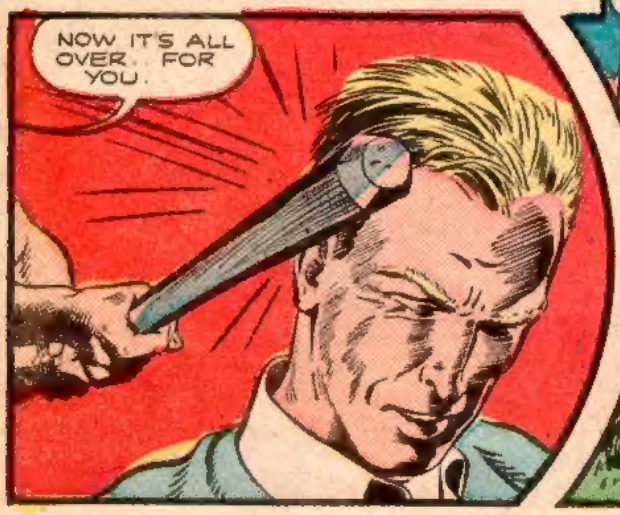
THE FOREMAN AT THE COLT ARMS FACTORY WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE HUM OF MACHINERY. HE WAS NO DREAMER, THIS CONNECTICUT YANKEE, YET THAT HUM PLEASED HIM. . AND WHEN ONE DAY IT SUDDENLY STOPPED, HE WAS LOST IN BLANK CONFUSION. GONE WAS THE FACTORY. . MACHINERY. . EVERYTHING GONE! BUT SOON THERE WAS ANOTHER SOUND. . A DRONE. . BEES! FAT, LAZY BEES, WINDING THROUGH A BLAZE OF SUNSHINE! THUS THIS MAN STOOD ON THE BRINK OF AN ADVENTURE, STRANGER THAN ANYONE HAD EVER KNOWN. HE WAS A CASTAWAY IN A PROUD AND GAUDY AGE. A FACTORY FOREMAN TURNED LOOSE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT! HE GAMBLED WITH DEATH TO MATCH WITS WITH MERLIN, MIGHTY LIAR AND MAGICIAN! HE GAINED UNBELIEVABLE POWER THROUGH A STROKE OF LUCK . DURING AN ECLIPSE! NO, THIS WAS NO DREAM. . IT WAS THE VAST, BREATH-TAKING TRANSPOSITION OF AN ENTIRE EPOCH. . AND A MAN NAMED HANK MORGAN!

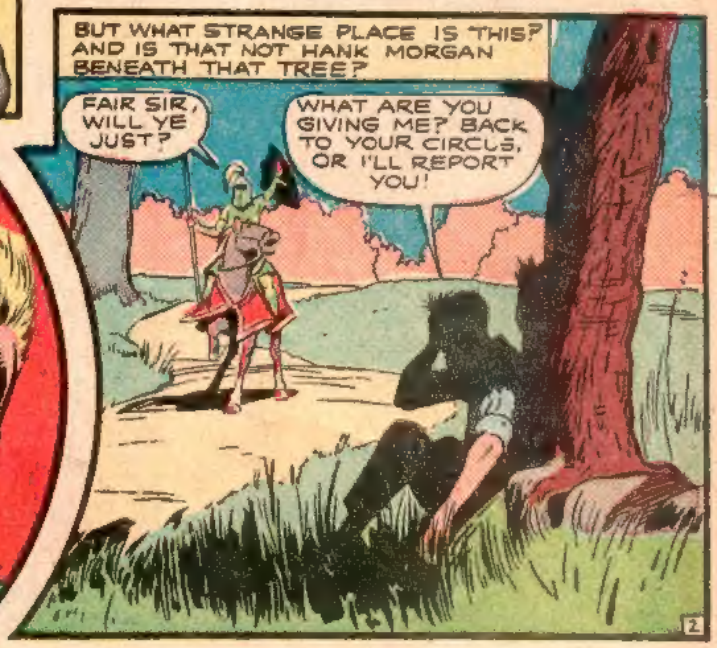
IT IS THE YEAR OF 1879, IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT WHERE WE PICK UP THE AMAZING TALE OF HANK MORGAN, FOREMAN AT THE COLT ARMS FACTORY...
GIVING ME THE DIRTY END OF THE JOB, EH, MORGAN?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE JOB, CLEAR OUT!
COLT

WHY, YOU SAWED OFF HALF PINT! I'LL SHOW YOU!
HOLY SMOKE! LOOK AT THAT!

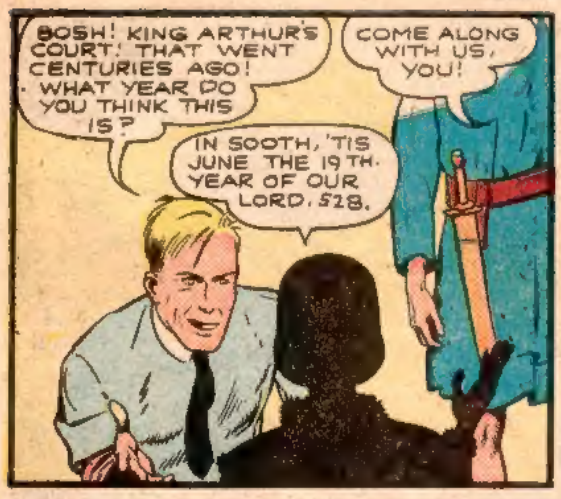
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE PUSHING AROUND? THIS IS A FACTORY, NOT A FIGHT ARENA!

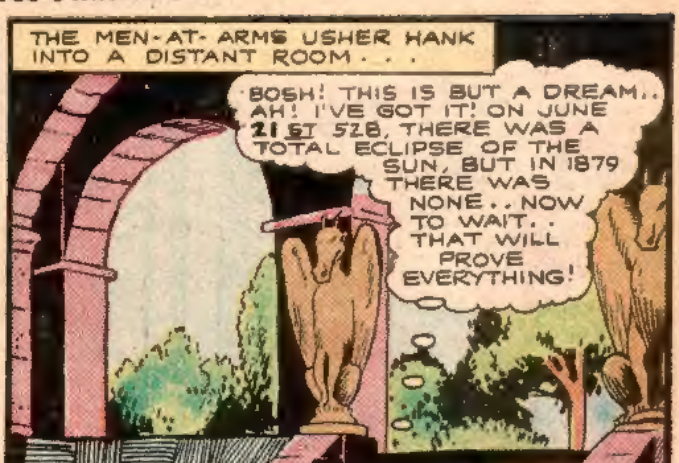
COME ON, MEN, BACK TO WORK! IT'S ALL OVER NOW...
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, MORGAN!


NOW IT'S ALL OVER... FOR YOU.


BUT WHAT STRANGE PLACE IS THIS? AND IS THAT NOT HANK MORGAN BENEATH THAT TREE?
FAIR SIR, WILL YE JUST?
WHAT ARE YOU GIVING ME? BACK TO YOUR CIRCUS, OR I'LL REPORT YOU!

COWARD!
HEY! TAKE IT EASY!
BETTER HUMOR HIM.. CAN'T STAY UP HERE ALL DAY.
DO YOU YIELD AS A PRISONER?
ALL RIGHT, I'LL COME DOWN IF YOU PROMISE NOT TO STICK ME WITH THAT.. THAT THING, WHEN I DO!
WALK!
WHAT DID I GET MYSELF INTO NOW?
SAY! THIS ISN'T BRIDGEPORT.. IS IT?
BRIDGEPORT? I NEVER HEARD OF THAT LAND.. THIS IS CAMELOT.
LOOK AT THE OUTFITS ON ALL OF 'EM! MUST BE AN ASYLUM!
HAIL!
HELLO, SONNY! YOU LOOK AS IF YOU HAVEN'T LOST YOUR WITS, BUT TELL ME THE TRUTH.. IS THIS AN INSANE ASYLUM?
INSANE ASYLUM!? PRAY WHAT IS THAT? THIS IS KING ARTHUR'S COURT!

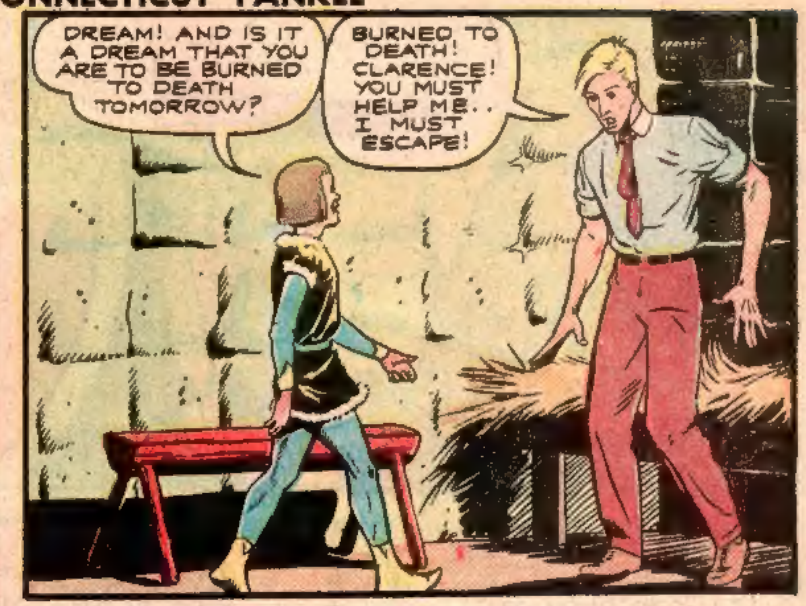

BOSH! KING ARTHUR'S COURT! THAT WENT CENTURIES AGO! WHAT YEAR DO YOU THINK THIS IS?
COME ALONG WITH US, YOU!
IN SOOTH, 'TIS JUNE THE 19TH YEAR OF OUR LORD, 528.

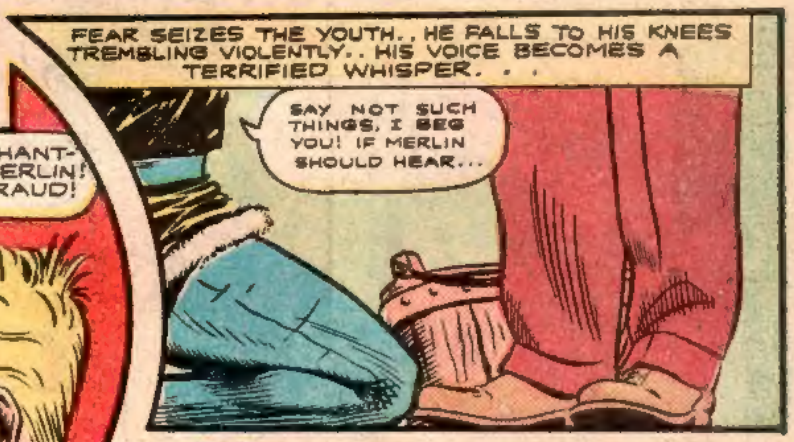

THE MEN-AT-ARMS USHER HANK INTO A DISTANT ROOM . . .
BOSH! THIS IS BUT A DREAM.. AH! I'VE GOT IT! ON JUNE 21ST 528, THERE WAS A TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN, BUT IN 1879 THERE WAS NONE.. NOW TO WAIT.. THAT WILL PROVE EVERYTHING!

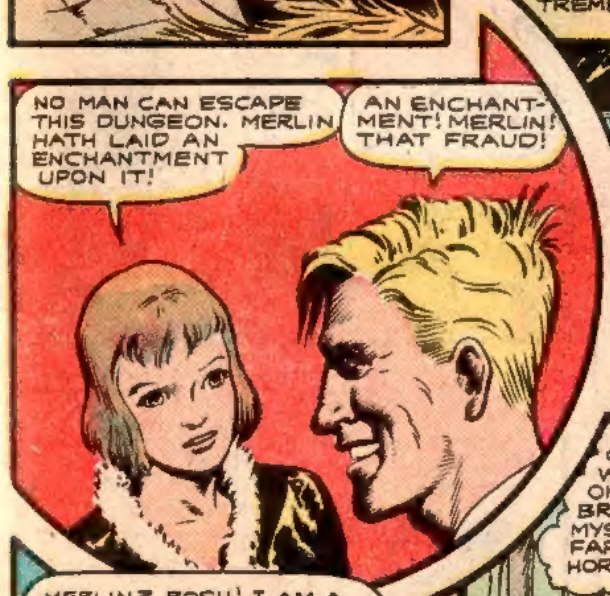
AND AFTER THIS GREAT BATTLE HE DID CLIMB INTO A GIANT TREE WHEREFROM I DISLODGED HIM WITH A BOULDER THE SIZE OF A COW! BUT HIS ENCHANTED CLOTHES DID PREVENT HIS BEING HURT! SITH THEN I BROUGHT HIM PRISONER HERE. HE WILL BE PUT TO DEATH ON THE 21ST!

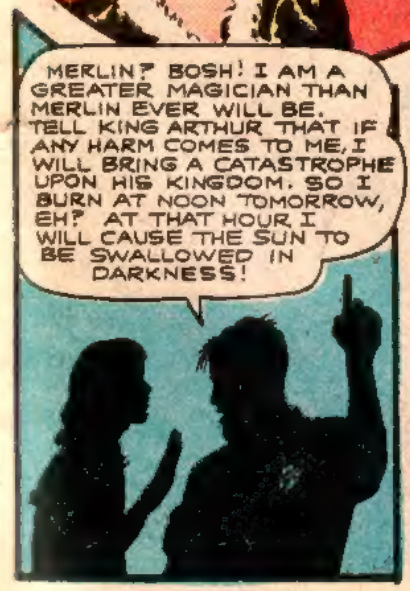
BUT HOW CAN YOU KILL HIM WITH THE ENCHANTED GARMENTS?
TAKE OFF THE ENCHANTED GARMENTS!
NOW THAT IS VERILY A GOOD THOUGHT, MERLIN! TO THE DUNGEON WITH HIM!

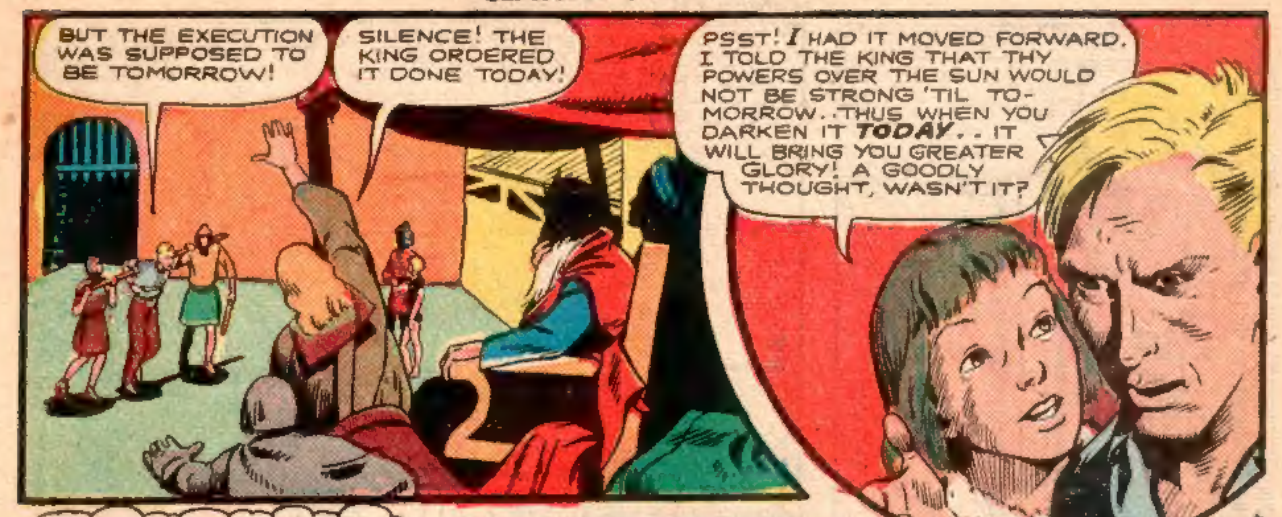
A CONNECTICUT YANKEE










BUT THE EXECUTION WAS SUPPOSED TO BE TOMORROW!
SILENCE! THE KING ORDERED IT DONE TODAY!
PSST! I HAD IT MOVED FORWARD. I TOLD THE KING THAT THY POWERS OVER THE SUN WOULD NOT BE STRONG 'TIL TOMORROW..THUS WHEN YOU DARKEN IT TODAY.. IT WILL BRING YOU GREATER GLORY! A GOODLY THOUGHT, WASN'T IT?

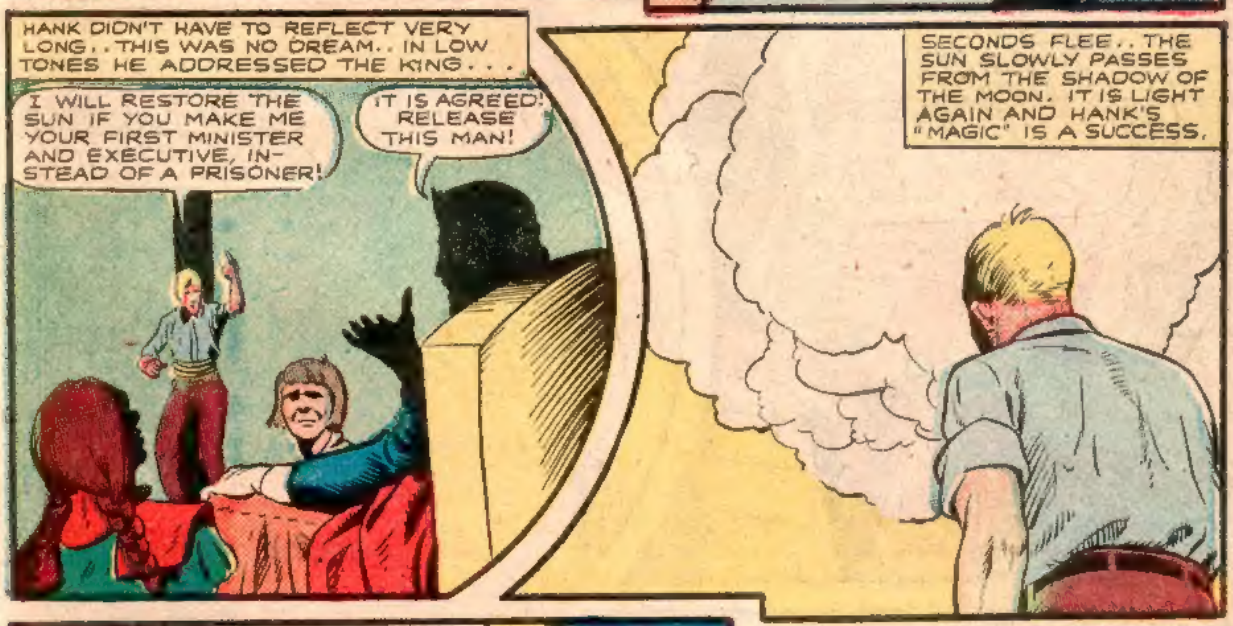
THAT LITTLE BUSYBODY! HE MEANT NO HARM, BUT HE IS SENDING ME TO MY DEATH! THE ECLIPSE ISN'T UNTIL TOMORROW, THE TWENTY-FIRST!

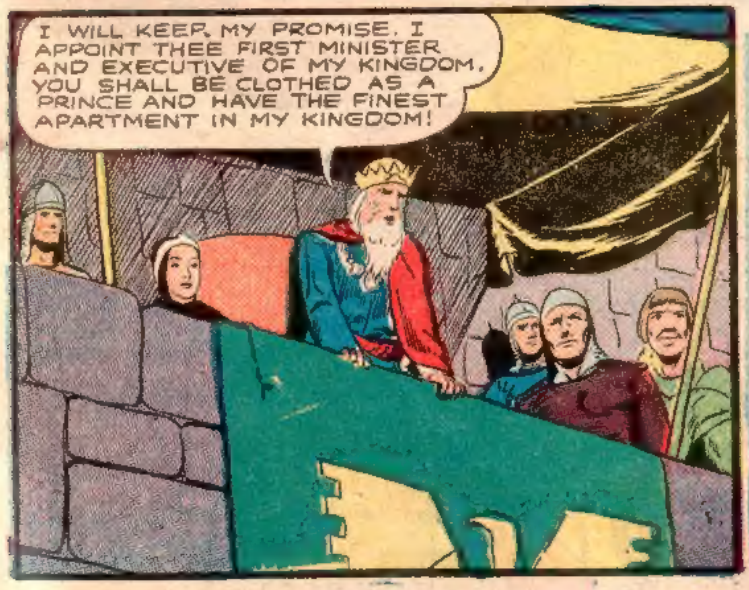
OH HEAVENLY POWERS, THAT. OH!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT IS IT?!

THE ECLIPSE! WHAT LUCK!
I COMMAND THAT THE SUN BE DARKENED!

OH, MIGHTY MAGICIAN, RETURN US THE SUN AND I WILL GRANT YOU ANYTHING..EVEN HALF OF MY KINGDOM!
THIS STILL MAY BE JUST A DREAM..THAT ECLIPSE WAS DUE TOMORROW!

GOOD MONK, WHAT DAY IS THIS?
WHY..WHY, 'TIS JUNE.. THE TWENTY-FIRST...
DRAT THAT CLARENCE! HE GOT THE DATES MIXED UP..THANK GOODNESS!


HANK DIDN'T HAVE TO REFLECT VERY LONG..THIS WAS NO DREAM..IN LOW TONES HE ADDRESSED THE KING...
I WILL RESTORE THE SUN IF YOU MAKE ME YOUR FIRST MINISTER AND EXECUTIVE, INSTEAD OF A PRISONER!
IT IS AGREED! RELEASE THIS MAN!
SECONDS FLEE..THE SUN SLOWLY PASSES FROM THE SHADOW OF THE MOON. IT IS LIGHT AGAIN AND HANK'S "MAGIC" IS A SUCCESS.

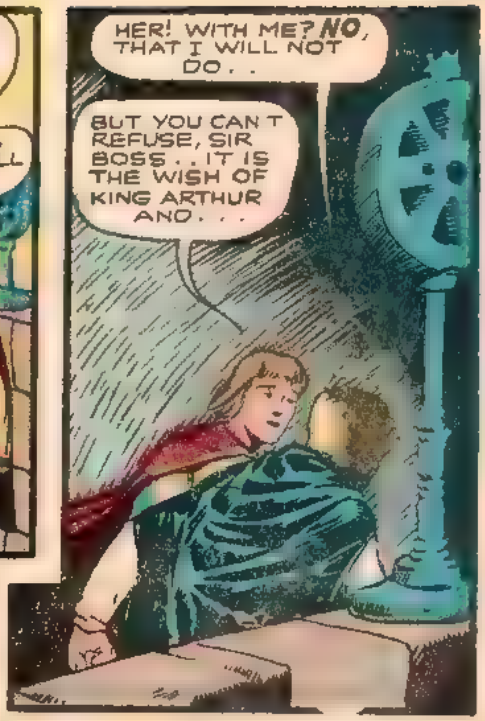

I WILL KEEP MY PROMISE. I APPOINT THEE FIRST MINISTER AND EXECUTIVE OF MY KINGDOM. YOU SHALL BE CLOTHED AS A PRINCE AND HAVE THE FINEST APARTMENT IN MY KINGDOM!

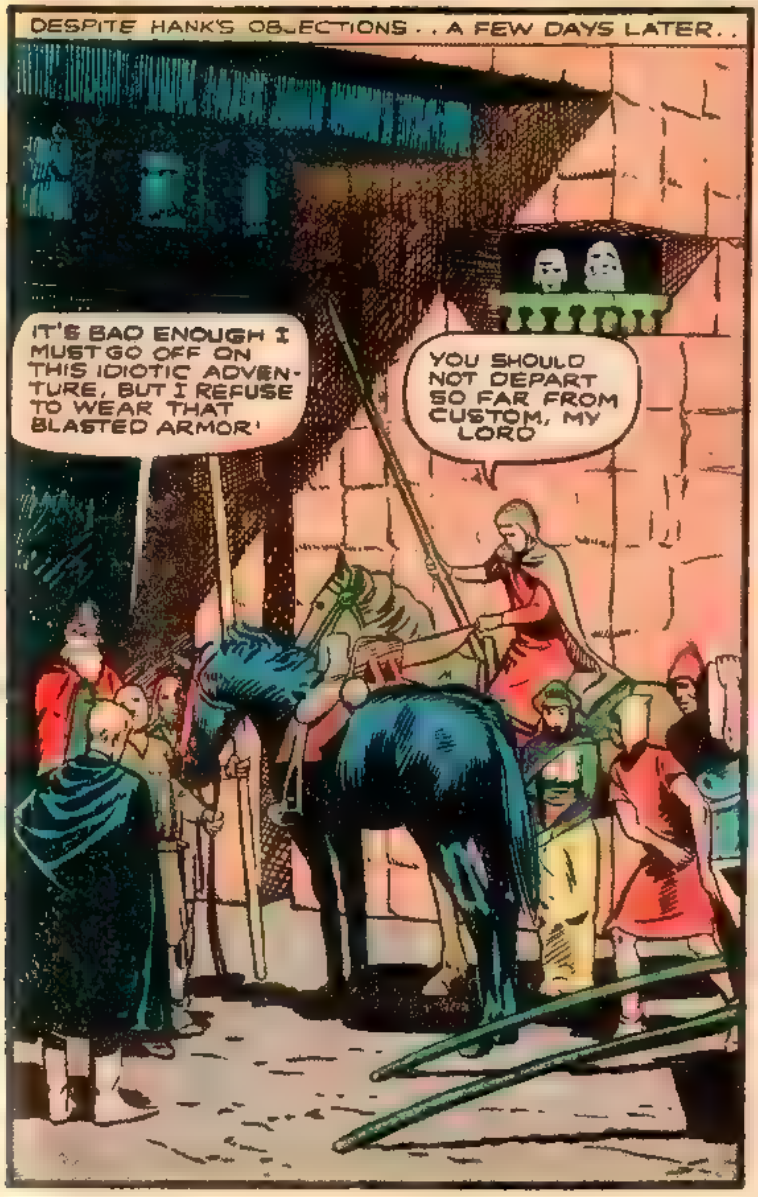
THREE YEARS PASS..HANK HAS FILLED HIS OFFICE...
TELEPHONES AND ELECTRIC LIGHTS! STRANGE MAGICS INDEED, SIR BOSS!
HMMM...

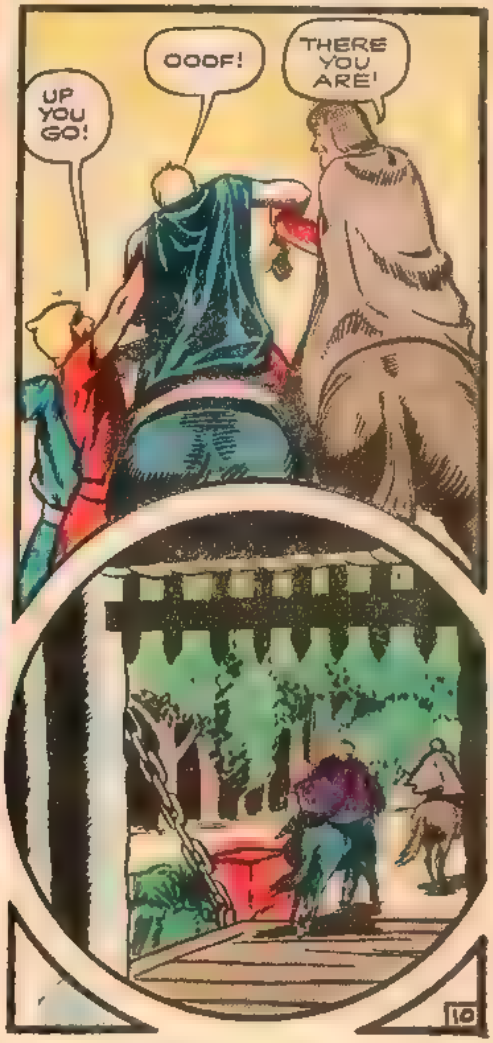
SEVERAL MORE YEARS PASS. . .
GREAT NEWS, SIR BOSS! KING ARTHUR HAS HONORED YOU. THERE IS A MAIDEN ASKING FOR A KNIGHT TO RESCUE HER MISTRESS FROM SOME OGRE! YOU ARE GOING TO DO IT!
ME? GOING AROUND THE COUNTRYSIDE LOOKING FOR OGRES. LOOK, CLARENCE.. THERE AIN'T NO SUCH ANIMAL!
BUT YOU CAN'T REFUSE! IT'S A GREAT HONOR!
ALL RIGHT! BRING ON THE MAIDEN. I'LL SOON FIND OUT WHAT TRUTH THERE IS IN HER TALE.. OGRES! BAH!
SO YOU'RE THE GIRL WHOSE MISTRESS IS HELD PRISONER BY OGRES..IN A CASTLE...
YES, SIR BOSS. I AM DEMOISELLE ALISANDE LA CARTELOISE, AND IT PLEASE YOU, SIR...
NOW, DEMOISELLE.. JUST WHERE IS THIS CASTLE? HOW FAR AND IN WHAT DIRECTION FROM CAMELOT?
SOOTH, SIR, AND IT LIETH IN NO DIRECTION FROM CAMELOT SITH THE ROAD TURNETH AND GOETH IN EVERY DIRECTION.. AND I WIT NOT THE NUMBER OF LEAGUES FOR SITH THEY ARE ALL THE SAME COLOR, AND I CANNOT SEPARATE ONE FROM THE OTHER..
BUT.. BUT IS THERE NO MAP?
MAP? PERADVENTURE IT IS THAT THING WHICH THE UNBELIEVERS BROUGHT FROM OVER THE GREAT SEA WHICH BEING BOILED IN OIL AND AN ONION AND SALT BEING ADDED THERETO..
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT A MAP IS? NO.. NEVER MIND! NO EXPLANATIONS. I HATE EXPLANATIONS. THEY ONLY CONFUSE THINGS. CLARENCE WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY OUT!

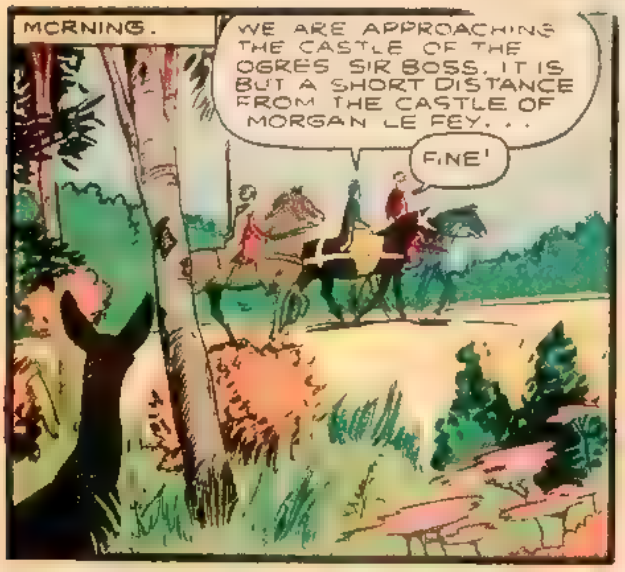
BUT WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S ALL RIGHT COME . .

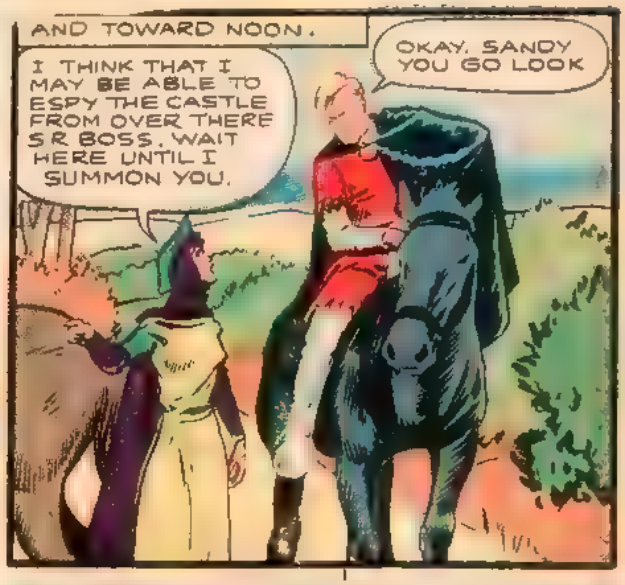
GREAT SCOTT! HOW CAN I FIND THIS CASTLE WITHOUT A MAP? AND SHE KNOWETH NOT THIS OR THAT OR THE OTHER THING!
THAT'S SIMPLE, SIR BOSS! SHE'LL GO WITH YOU!

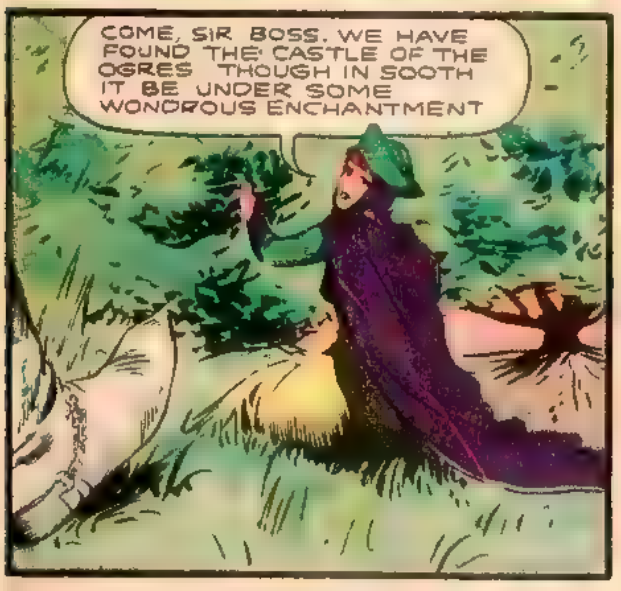

HER! WITH ME? NO, THAT I WILL NOT DO . .
BUT YOU CAN'T REFUSE, SIR BOSS . . IT IS THE WISH OF KING ARTHUR AND . . .

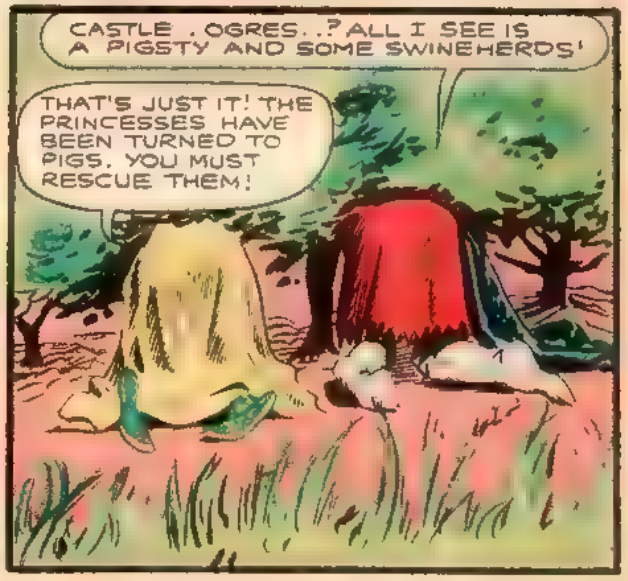

DESPITE HANK'S OBJECTIONS . . A FEW DAYS LATER . .
IT'S BAD ENOUGH I MUST GO OFF ON THIS IDIOTIC ADVENTURE, BUT I REFUSE TO WEAR THAT BLASTED ARMOR!
YOU SHOULD NOT DEPART SO FAR FROM CUSTOM, MY LORD

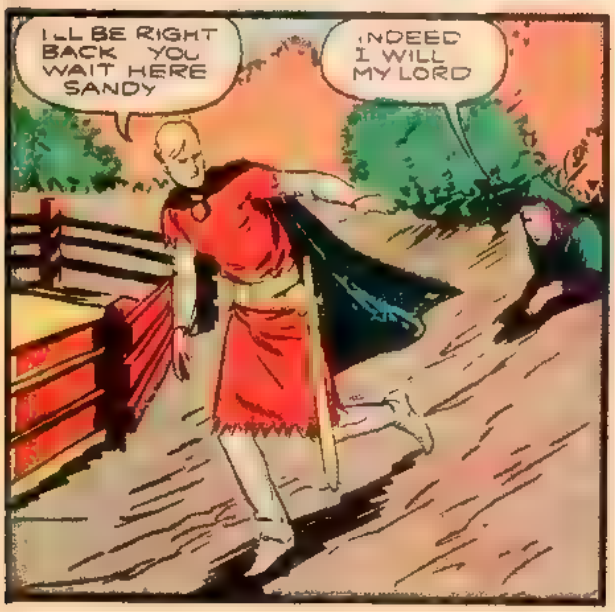

UP YOU GO!
OOOF!
THERE YOU ARE!

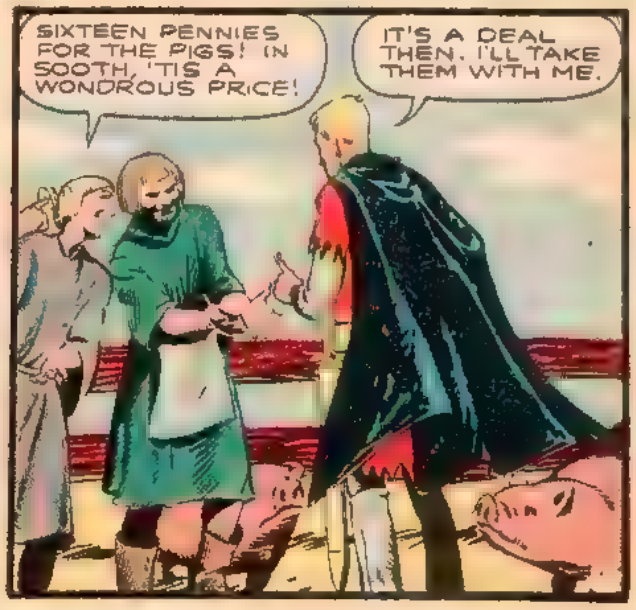

MORNING.
WE ARE APPROACHING THE CASTLE OF THE OGRES SIR BOSS. IT IS BUT A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE CASTLE OF MORGAN LE FEY. . .
FINE!

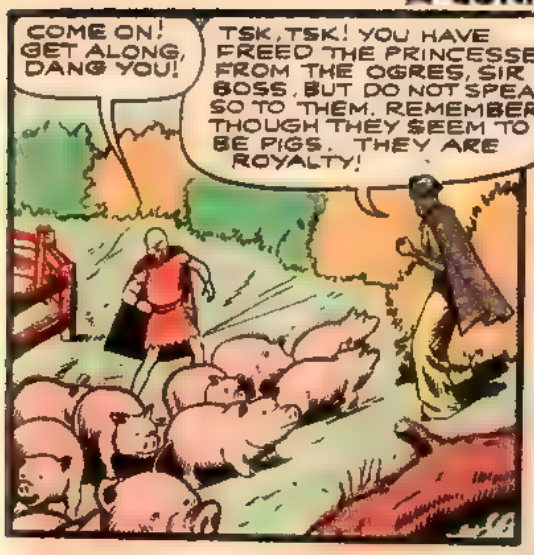

AND TOWARD NOON.
I THINK THAT I MAY BE ABLE TO ESPY THE CASTLE FROM OVER THERE SIR BOSS. WAIT HERE UNTIL I SUMMON YOU.
OKAY. SANDY YOU GO LOOK


COME, SIR BOSS. WE HAVE FOUND THE CASTLE OF THE OGRES THOUGH IN SOOTH IT BE UNDER SOME WONDROUS ENCHANTMENT


CASTLE . OGRES. . ? ALL I SEE IS A PIGSTY AND SOME SWINEHERDS!
THAT'S JUST IT! THE PRINCESSES HAVE BEEN TURNED TO PIGS. YOU MUST RESCUE THEM!


I'LL BE RIGHT BACK YOU WAIT HERE SANDY
INDEED I WILL MY LORD


SIXTEEN PENNIES FOR THE PIGS! IN SOOTH, 'TIS A WONDROUS PRICE!
IT'S A DEAL THEN. I'LL TAKE THEM WITH ME.


COME ON! GET ALONG, DANG YOU!
TSK, TSK! YOU HAVE FREED THE PRINCESSES FROM THE OGRES, SIR BOSS, BUT DO NOT SPEAK SO TO THEM. REMEMBER, THOUGH THEY SEEM TO BE PIGS, THEY ARE ROYALTY!

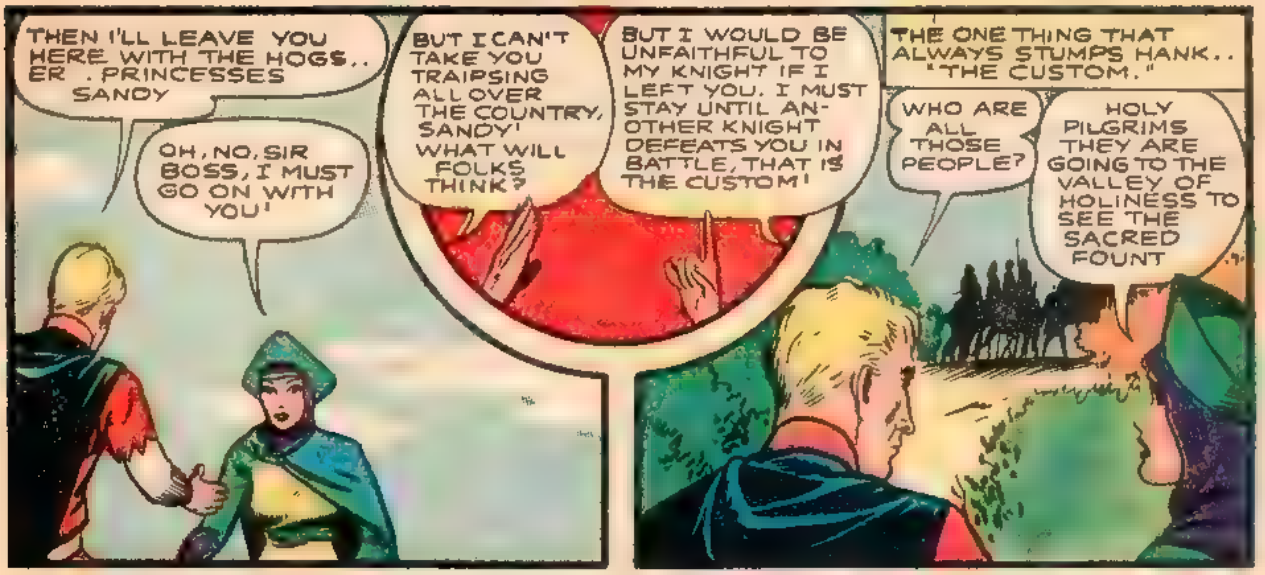
I'M ELATED! THIS WILL BE A TALE TO TELL!
BUT WHERE DO WE GO NOW, SANDY?

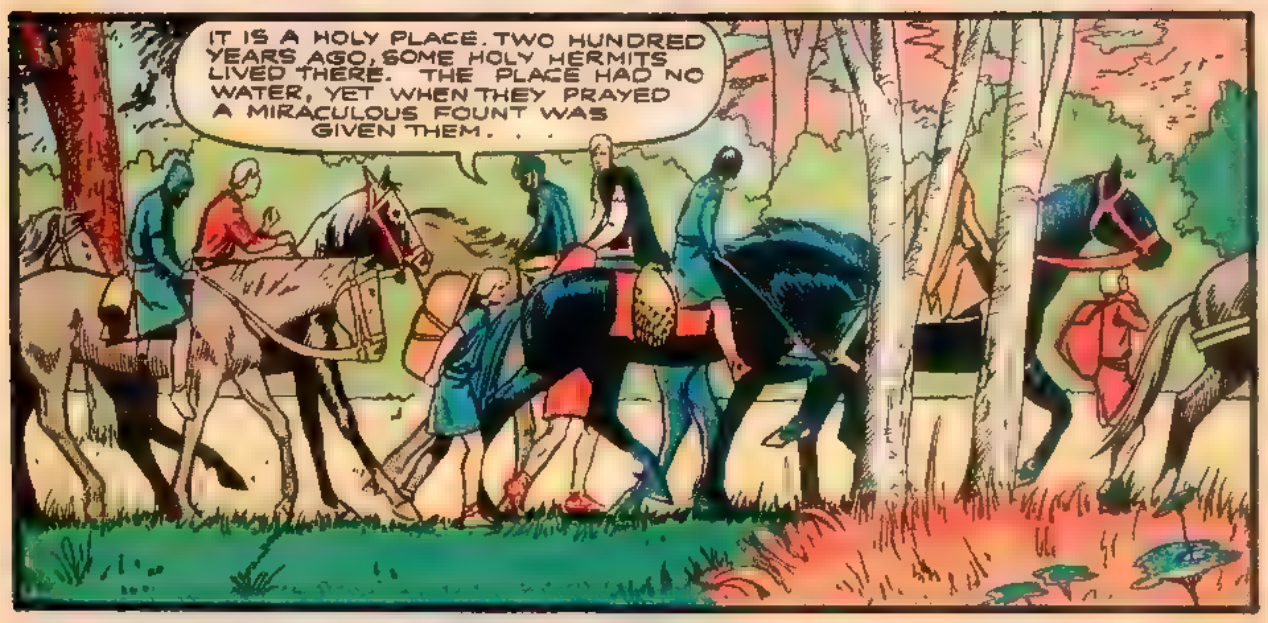
WE CAN STOP HERE IF YOU WISH.
IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME MA'M

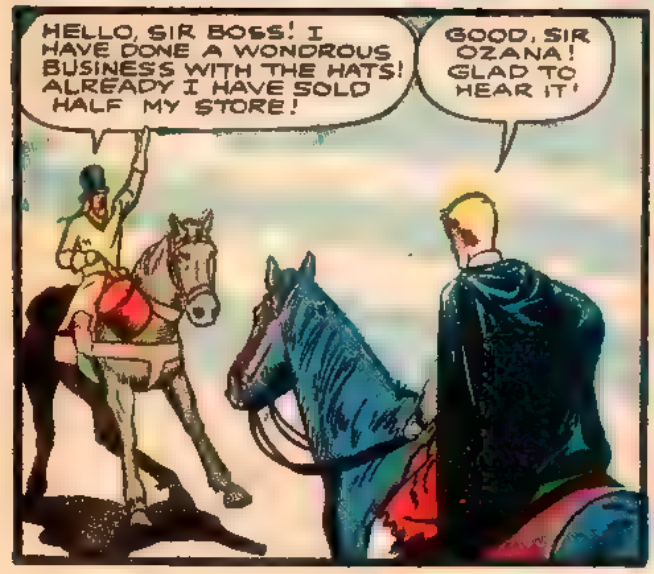
WELL, NOW THAT YOU ARE HOME AGAIN, SANDY...
HOME, MY LORD? INDEED THIS IS NOT MY HOME.. I HAVE NO HOME!

BUT WHOSE HOUSE IS IT?
I KNOW NOT. BUT WHOE'ER THEY ARE, THEY MUST BE PROUD TO HAVE THE ROYAL PRINCESSES...

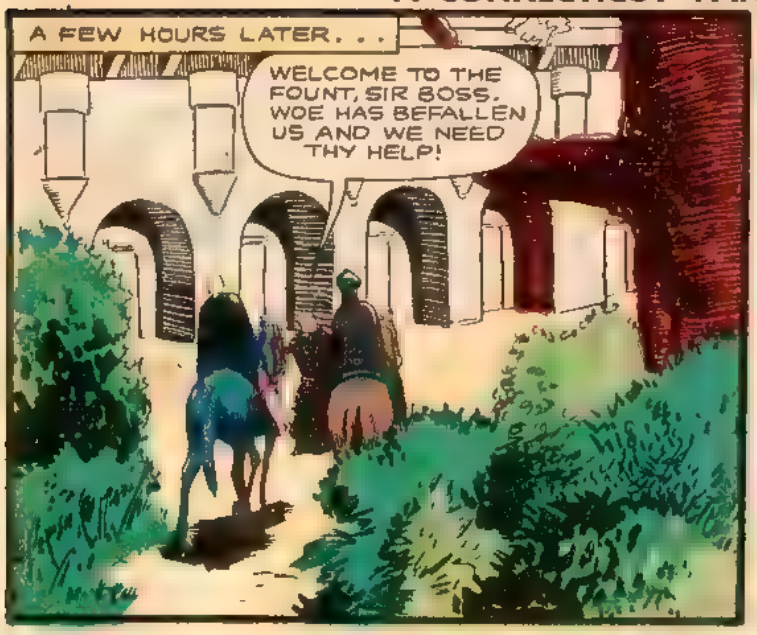
LET'S GET GOING THEN, AND TAKE THEM TO THEIR HOMES SO I CAN GET BACK TO CAMELOT!
NAY. WE'LL LEAVE THEM HERE, SIR BOSS. THEY ARE SAFE AND HAPPY. THEIR FRIENDS WILL COME AFTER THEM!

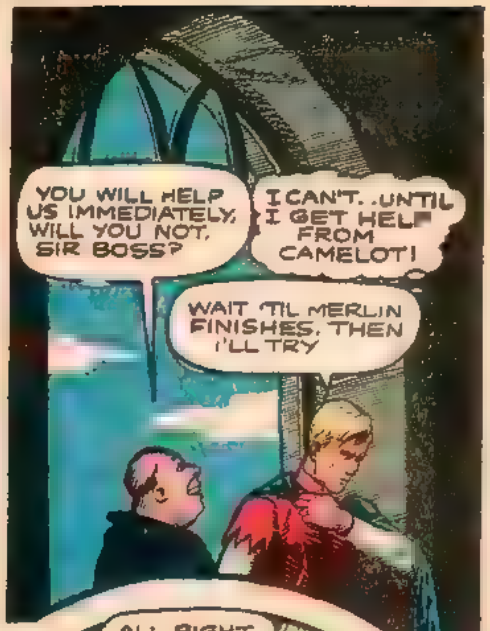

THEN I'LL LEAVE YOU HERE WITH THE HOGS.. ER . PRINCESSES SANDY
OH, NO, SIR BOSS, I MUST GO ON WITH YOU!
BUT I CAN'T TAKE YOU TRAIPSING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, SANDY! WHAT WILL FOLKS THINK?
BUT I WOULD BE UNFAITHFUL TO MY KNIGHT IF I LEFT YOU. I MUST STAY UNTIL ANOTHER KNIGHT DEFEATS YOU IN BATTLE, THAT IS THE CUSTOM!
THE ONE THING THAT ALWAYS STUMPS HANK.. "THE CUSTOM."
WHO ARE ALL THOSE PEOPLE?
HOLY PILGRIMS THEY ARE GOING TO THE VALLEY OF HOLINESS TO SEE THE SACRED FOUNT

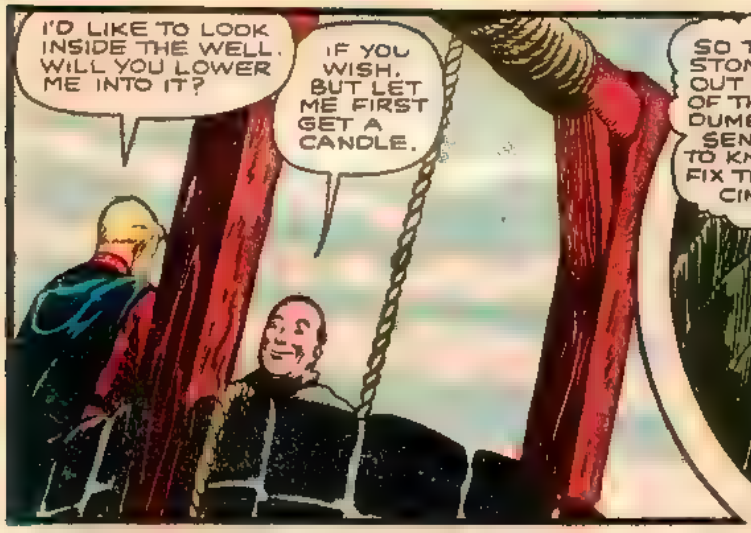

IT IS A HOLY PLACE. TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, SOME HOLY HERMITS LIVED THERE. THE PLACE HAD NO WATER, YET WHEN THEY PRAYED A MIRACULOUS FOUNT WAS GIVEN THEM. . .


HELLO, SIR BOSS! I HAVE DONE A WONDROUS BUSINESS WITH THE HATS! ALREADY I HAVE SOLD HALF MY STORE!
GOOD, SIR OZANA! GLAD TO HEAR IT!

I HAVE JUST COME FROM THE VALLEY OF HOLINESS YIPE! THE FOUNT HAS GONE DRY! MERLIN IS THERE TRYING OUT HIS ENCHANTMENTS!
MERLIN, EH? GET BACK TO CAMELOT WITH A MESSAGE FOR CLARENCE. I'M GOING TO THE VALLEY OF HOLINESS!

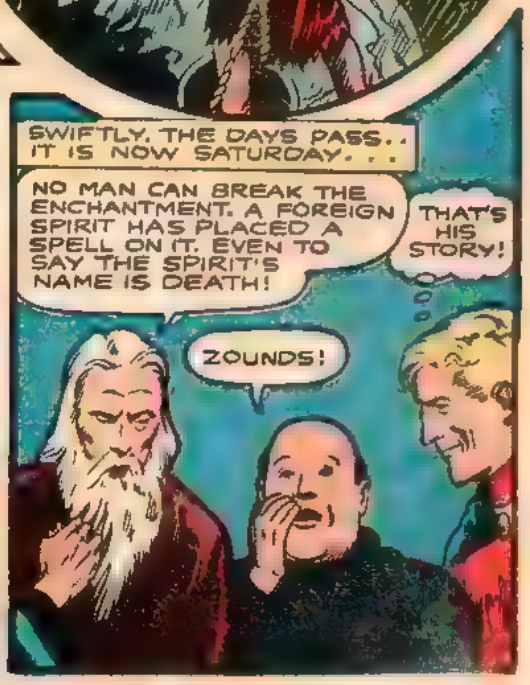

A FEW HOURS LATER. . .
WELCOME TO THE FOUNT, SIR BOSS. WOE HAS BEFALLEN US AND WE NEED THY HELP!

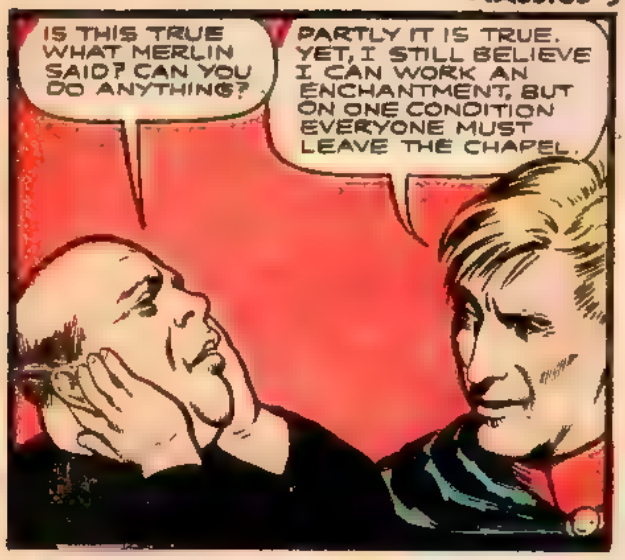

YOU WILL HELP US IMMEDIATELY, WILL YOU NOT, SIR BOSS?
I CAN'T. . UNTIL I GET HELP FROM CAMELOT!
WAIT 'TIL MERLIN FINISHES, THEN I'LL TRY

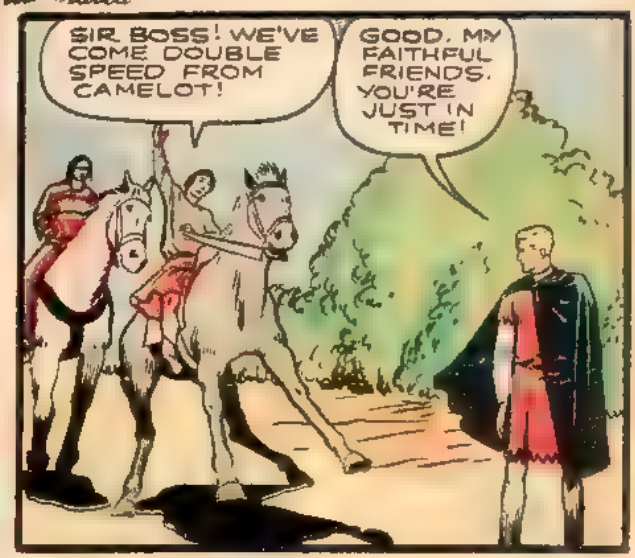

I'D LIKE TO LOOK INSIDE THE WELL. WILL YOU LOWER ME INTO IT?
IF YOU WISH. BUT LET ME FIRST GET A CANDLE.

ALL RIGHT, HOLD IT!
SO THAT'S IT! STONES FALLEN OUT OF THE SIDE OF THE WELL. THESE DUMBBELLS HAVEN'T SENSE ENOUGH TO KNOW HOW TO FIX THAT! IT'S A CINCH!

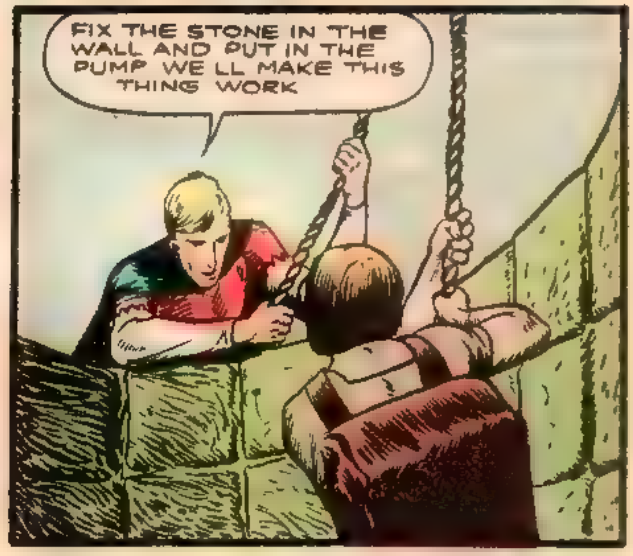
I THINK I CAN WORK AN ENCHANTMENT THAT WILL BRING BACK THE WATER LET MERLIN TRY UNTIL NOON SATURDAY IF HE FAILS, I'LL TAKE OVER
THAT'S WONDERFUL, SIR BOSS.

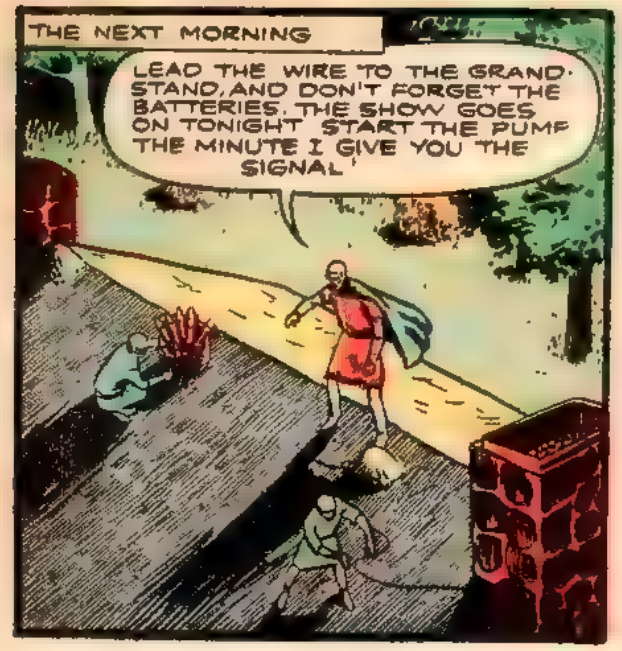

SWIFTLY, THE DAYS PASS. . IT IS NOW SATURDAY. . .
NO MAN CAN BREAK THE ENCHANTMENT. A FOREIGN SPIRIT HAS PLACED A SPELL ON IT. EVEN TO SAY THE SPIRIT'S NAME IS DEATH!
THAT'S HIS STORY!
ZOUNDS!

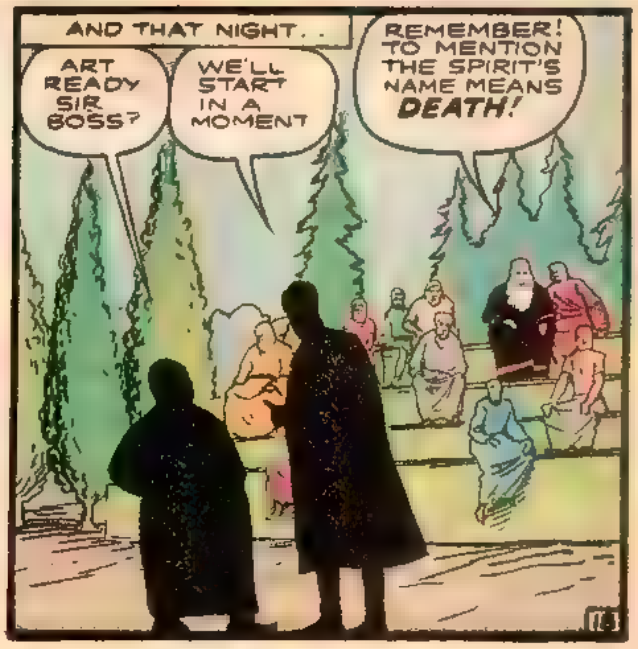

IS THIS TRUE WHAT MERLIN SAID? CAN YOU DO ANYTHING?
PARTLY IT IS TRUE. YET, I STILL BELIEVE I CAN WORK AN ENCHANTMENT, BUT ON ONE CONDITION EVERYONE MUST LEAVE THE CHAPEL.


SIR BOSS! WE'VE COME DOUBLE SPEED FROM CAMELOT!
GOOD. MY FAITHFUL FRIENDS. YOU'RE JUST IN TIME!

IT'S A SIMPLE JOB, BUT WE'VE GOT TO MAKE IT LOOK FANCY. DID YOU BRING THE FIRE-WORKS?
EVERYTHING PUMPS, SKY-ROCKETS. YES, WE'VE GOT THEM ALL

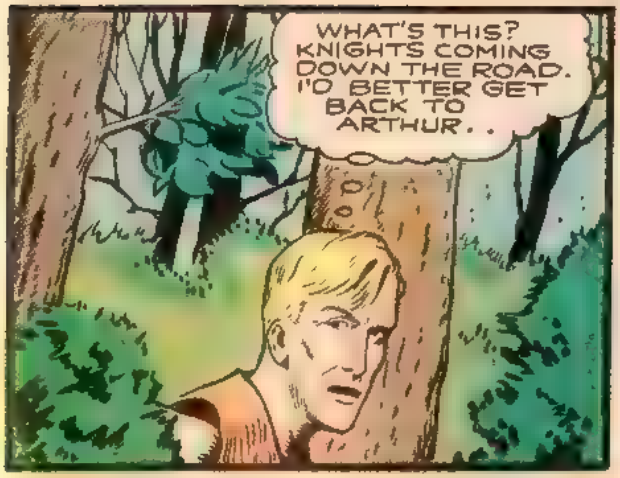

FIX THE STONE IN THE WALL AND PUT IN THE PUMP WE LL MAKE THIS THING WORK

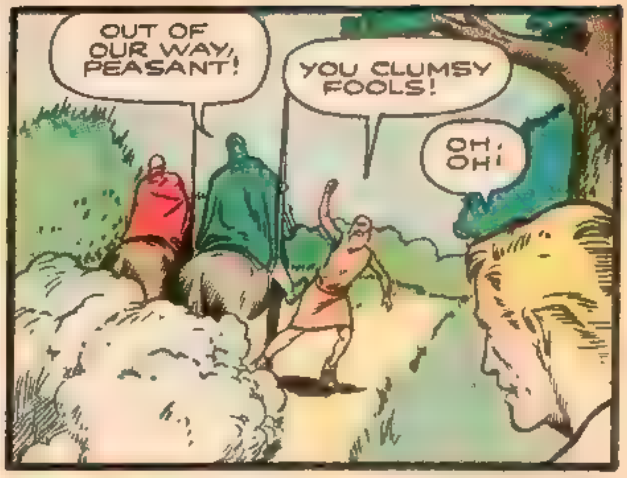

THE NEXT MORNING
LEAD THE WIRE TO THE GRAND-STAND, AND DON'T FORGET THE BATTERIES. THE SHOW GOES ON TONIGHT START THE PUMP THE MINUTE I GIVE YOU THE SIGNAL

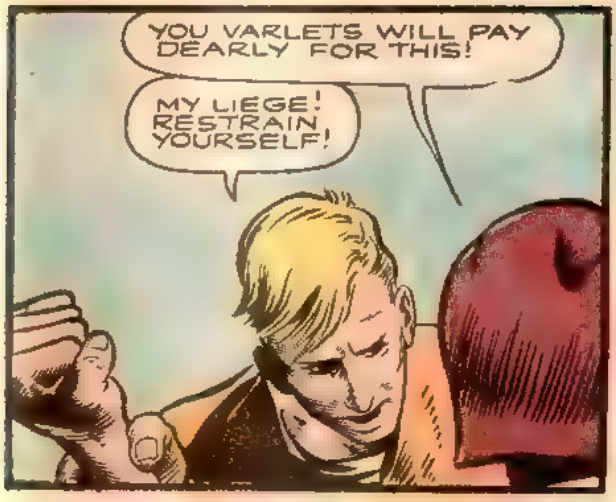

AND THAT NIGHT..
ART READY SIR BOSS?
WE'LL START IN A MOMENT
REMEMBER! TO MENTION THE SPIRIT'S NAME MEANS DEATH!

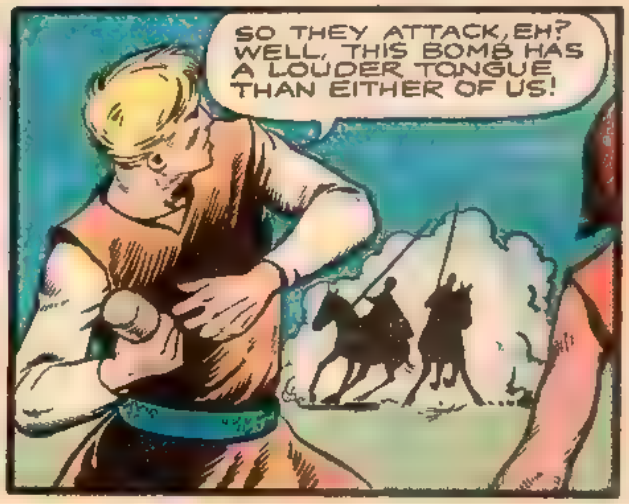
CONSTANTINOPOLITANISCHERDELSACK-SPFEIFENMACHERSGESELLSCHAFFT!
CLICK
I CALL UPON THE DEMON WHO HAS PLACED A SPELL UPON THE FOUNT TO RELEASE THE WATER. I CALL UPON HIM BY HIS OWN NAME! BGWNNILLIGKKK!
TRANSVAALTRUPPENTRE-PENTRANSPORTTRAMPLE-THIERTREIBERTRAUNGST HRAENENTRACENE!

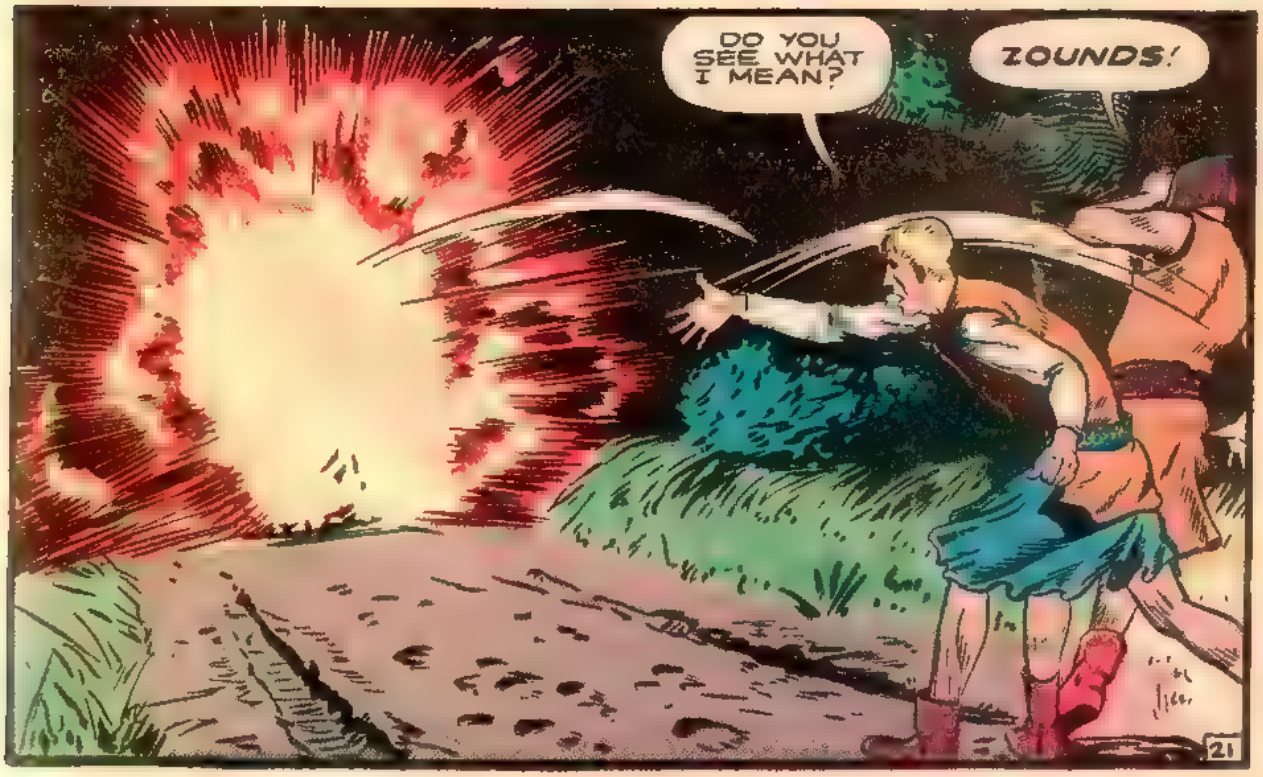
WORD OF HANK'S MIRACLE SPREADS ACROSS THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND IN A FEW HOURS, KING ARTHUR ARRIVED WITH HALF HIS COURT...
CONTINUE, SIR BOSS. THIS NEW IDEA OF YOURS FASCINATES ME. IN SOOTH, THIS PROMISES TO BE A NOBLE ADVENTURE. I WONDER THAT NO ONE ELSE EVER THOUGHT OF IT.
BUT REMEMBER, MY LIEGE, YOU WILL HAVE TO GIVE UP THE COMFORTS OF YOUR COURT. WE WILL TRAVEL ON FOOT, CARRY NO FOOD, IN FACT, EAT ONLY WHAT WE CAN GET ON THE WAY. ALSO.. I WILL HAVE TO CUT YOUR ROYAL HAIR.
FORSOOTH! DO IT NOW!
WE'LL START OUT AT DAWN. I ALREADY HAVE PEASANT CLOTHES FOR US!
GOOD!
EARLY THE NEXT DAY...
WELL, SIRE! HERE WE GO!
I'LL GET SOME WATER FOR YOU. REST A BIT.
IN SOOTH, THIS WALKING DOTH INCREASE MY THIRST..

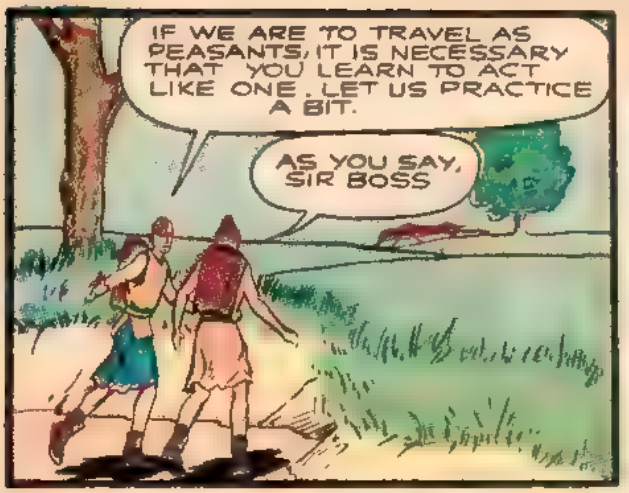

WHAT'S THIS? KNIGHTS COMING DOWN THE ROAD. I'D BETTER GET BACK TO ARTHUR..

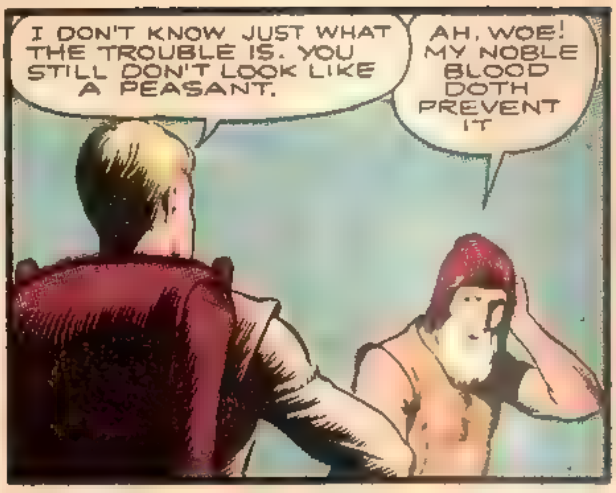

OUT OF OUR WAY, PEASANT!
YOU CLUMSY FOOLS!
OH! OH!

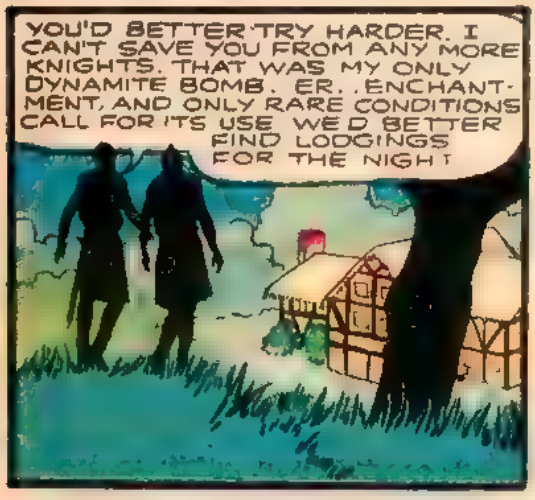

YOU VARLETS WILL PAY DEARLY FOR THIS!
MY LIEGE! RESTRAIN YOURSELF!

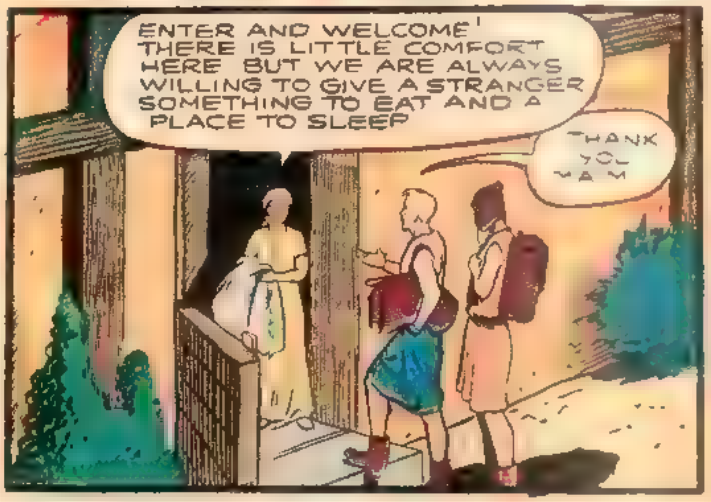

SO THEY ATTACK, EH? WELL, THIS BOMB HAS A LOUDER TONGUE THAN EITHER OF US!

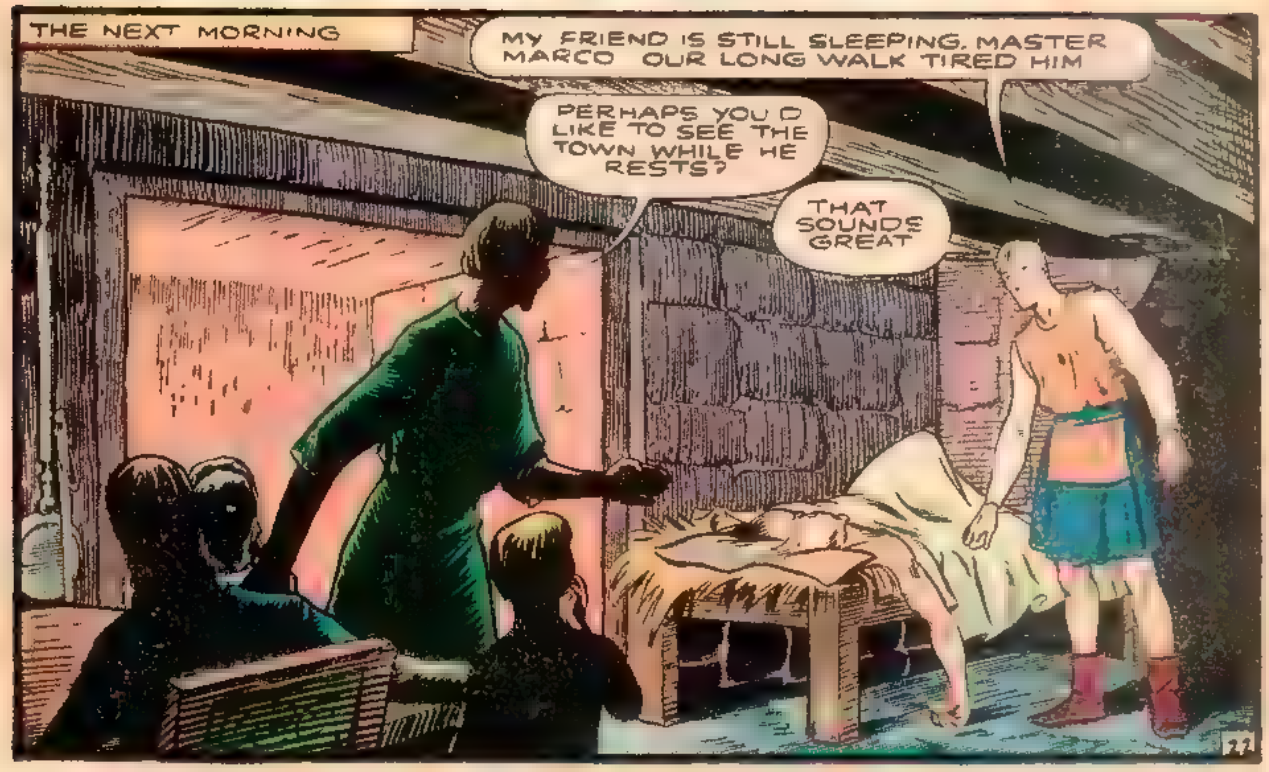

DO YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN?
ZOUNDS!

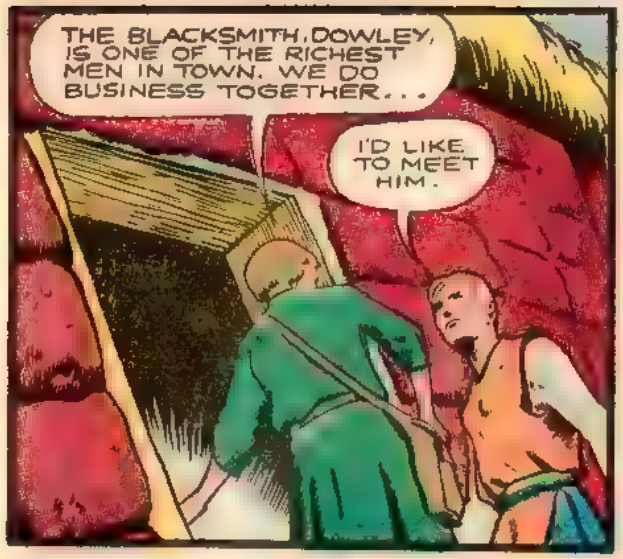

IF WE ARE TO TRAVEL AS PEASANTS, IT IS NECESSARY THAT YOU LEARN TO ACT LIKE ONE. LET US PRACTICE A BIT.
AS YOU SAY, SIR BOSS

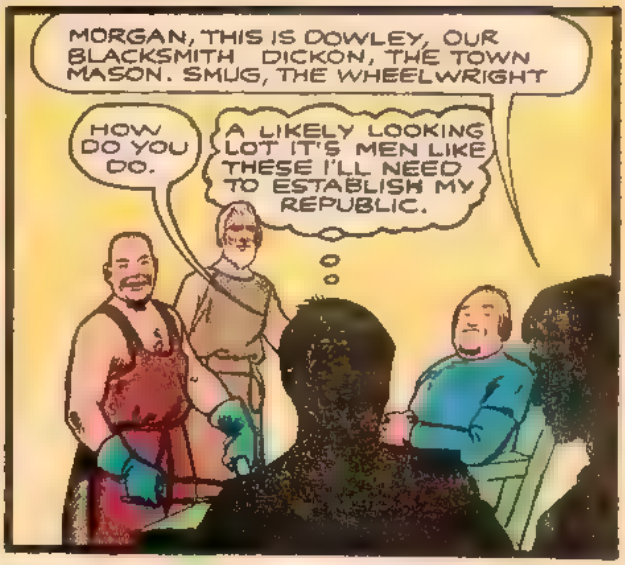

I DON'T KNOW JUST WHAT THE TROUBLE IS. YOU STILL DON'T LOOK LIKE A PEASANT.
AH, WOE! MY NOBLE BLOOD DOTH PREVENT IT

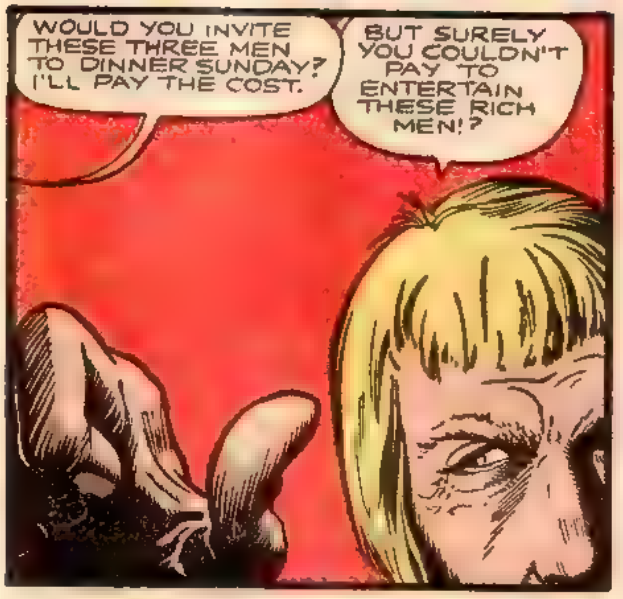

YOU'D BETTER TRY HARDER. I CAN'T SAVE YOU FROM ANY MORE KNIGHTS. THAT WAS MY ONLY DYNAMITE BOMB. ER..ENCHANTMENT, AND ONLY RARE CONDITIONS CALL FOR ITS USE. WE'D BETTER FIND LODGINGS FOR THE NIGHT

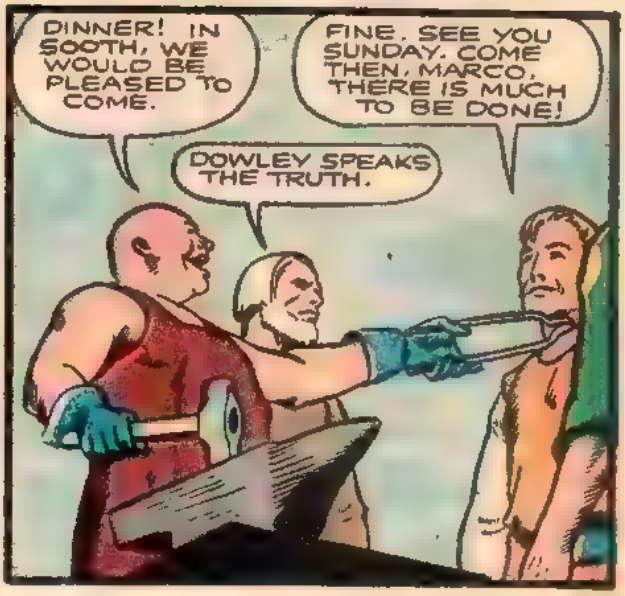

ENTER AND WELCOME! THERE IS LITTLE COMFORT HERE BUT WE ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO GIVE A STRANGER SOMETHING TO EAT AND A PLACE TO SLEEP
THANK YOU MA'M

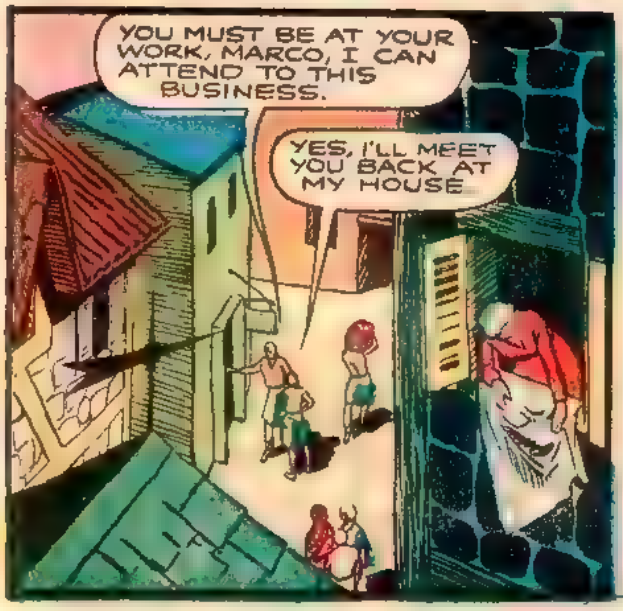

THE NEXT MORNING
MY FRIEND IS STILL SLEEPING, MASTER MARCO. OUR LONG WALK TIRED HIM
PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO SEE THE TOWN WHILE HE RESTS?
THAT SOUNDS GREAT

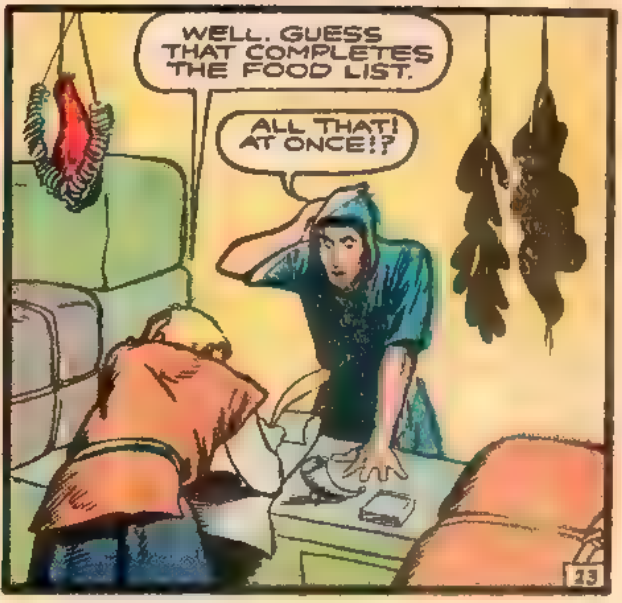

THE BLACKSMITH, DOWLEY, IS ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN IN TOWN. WE DO BUSINESS TOGETHER...
I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM.


MORGAN, THIS IS DOWLEY, OUR BLACKSMITH DICKON, THE TOWN MASON. SMUG, THE WHEELWRIGHT
HOW DO YOU DO.
A LIKELY LOOKING LOT IT'S MEN LIKE THESE I'LL NEED TO ESTABLISH MY REPUBLIC.

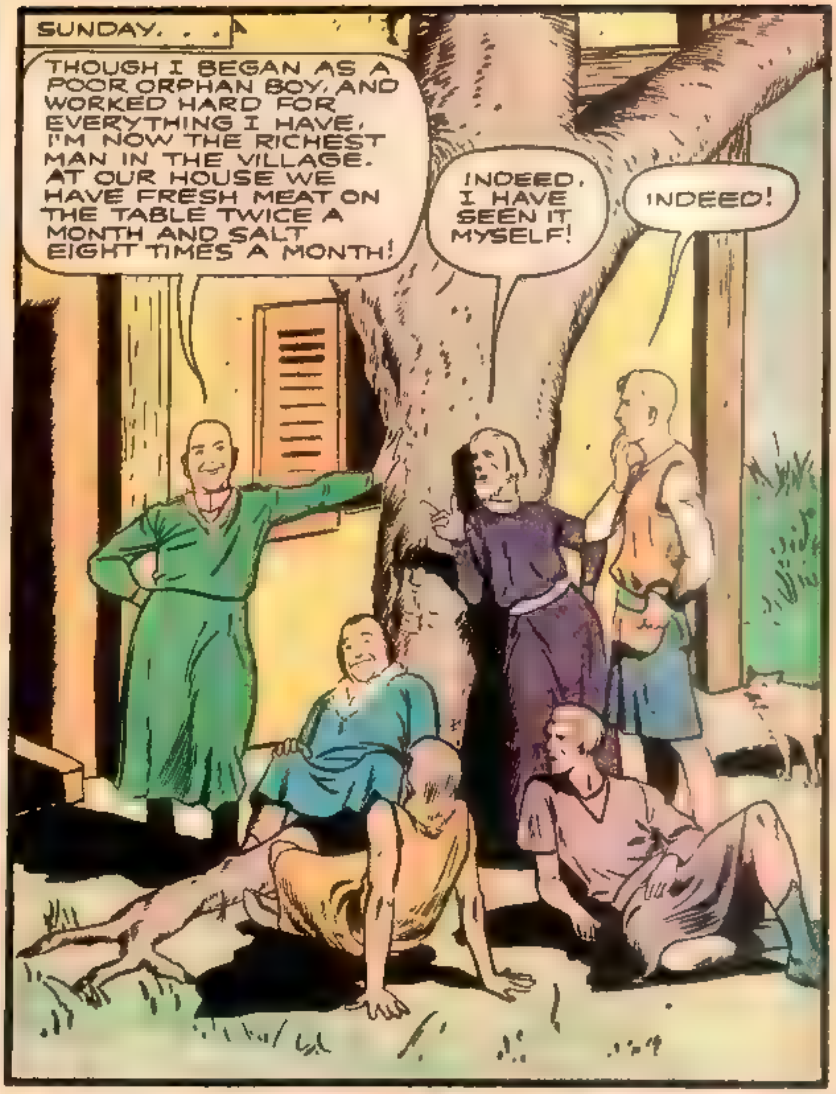

WOULD YOU INVITE THESE THREE MEN TO DINNER SUNDAY? I'LL PAY THE COST.
BUT SURELY YOU COULDN'T PAY TO ENTERTAIN THESE RICH MEN!?

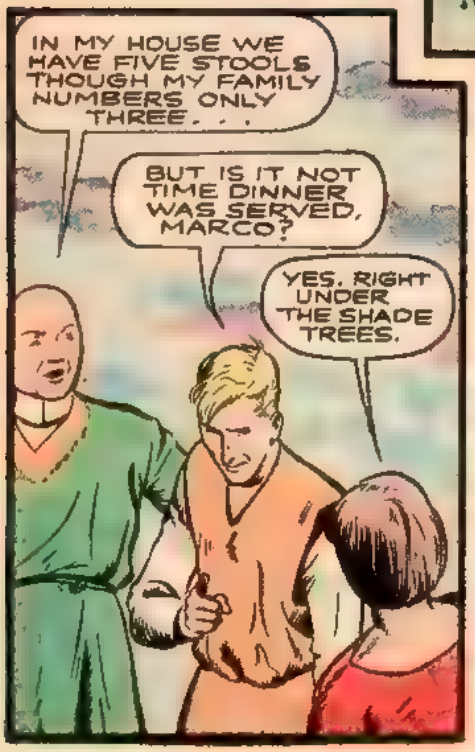

DINNER! IN SOOTH, WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO COME.
FINE. SEE YOU SUNDAY. COME THEN, MARCO, THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE!
DOWLEY SPEAKS THE TRUTH.

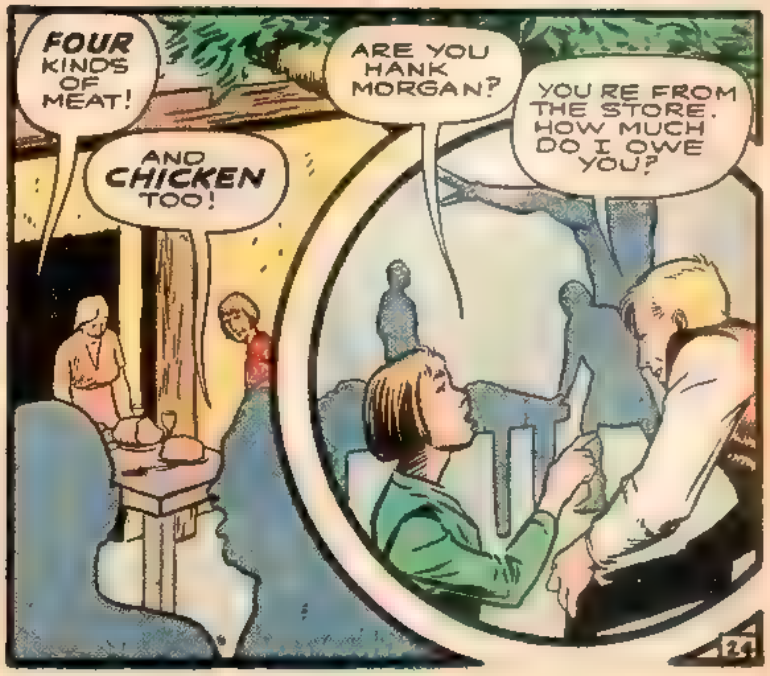

YOU MUST BE AT YOUR WORK, MARCO, I CAN ATTEND TO THIS BUSINESS.
YES, I'LL MEET YOU BACK AT MY HOUSE


WELL. GUESS THAT COMPLETES THE FOOD LIST.
ALL THAT! AT ONCE!?

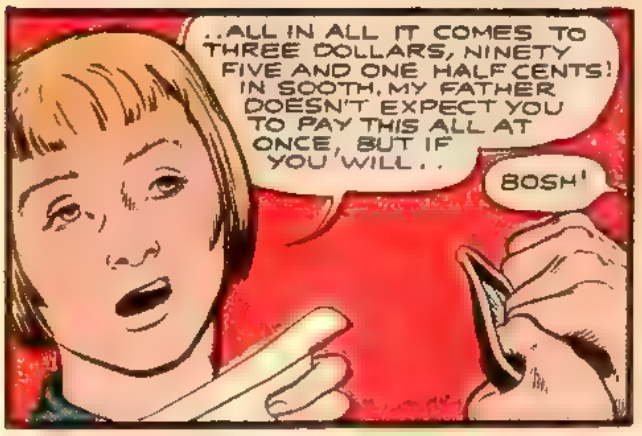
SEND IT ALL OUT SATURDAY NIGHT, AND SEND THE BILL SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT DINNER TIME.
AS YOU SAY, MY FRIEND.

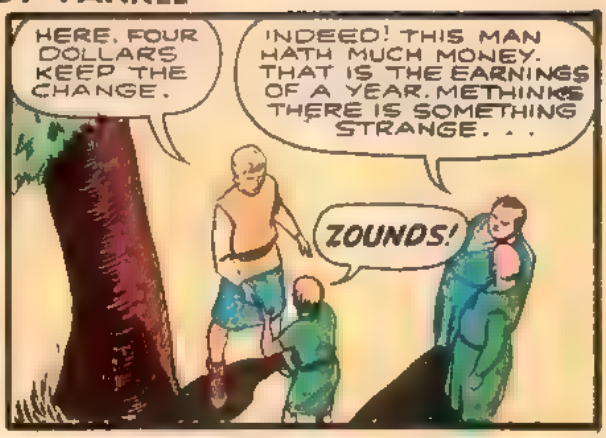

SUNDAY. . .
THOUGH I BEGAN AS A POOR ORPHAN BOY, AND WORKED HARD FOR EVERYTHING I HAVE, I'M NOW THE RICHEST MAN IN THE VILLAGE. AT OUR HOUSE WE HAVE FRESH MEAT ON THE TABLE TWICE A MONTH AND SALT EIGHT TIMES A MONTH!
INDEED, I HAVE SEEN IT MYSELF!
INDEED!

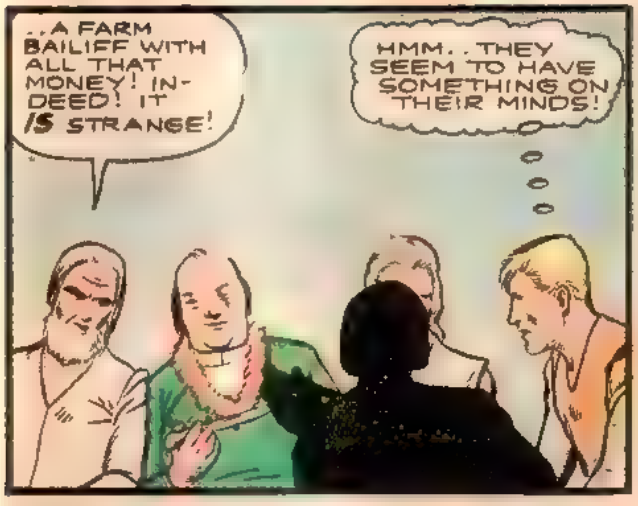

IN MY HOUSE WE HAVE FIVE STOOLS THOUGH MY FAMILY NUMBERS ONLY THREE. . .
BUT IS IT NOT TIME DINNER WAS SERVED, MARCO?
YES, RIGHT UNDER THE SHADE TREES.

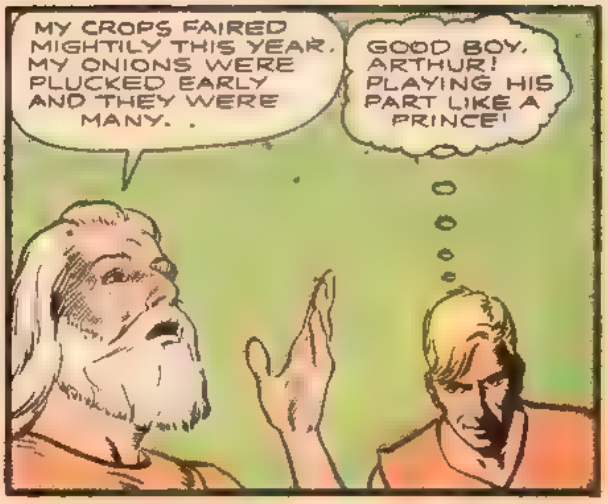

FOUR KINDS OF MEAT!
AND CHICKEN TOO!
ARE YOU HANK MORGAN?
YOU RE FROM THE STORE. HOW MUCH DO I OWE YOU?

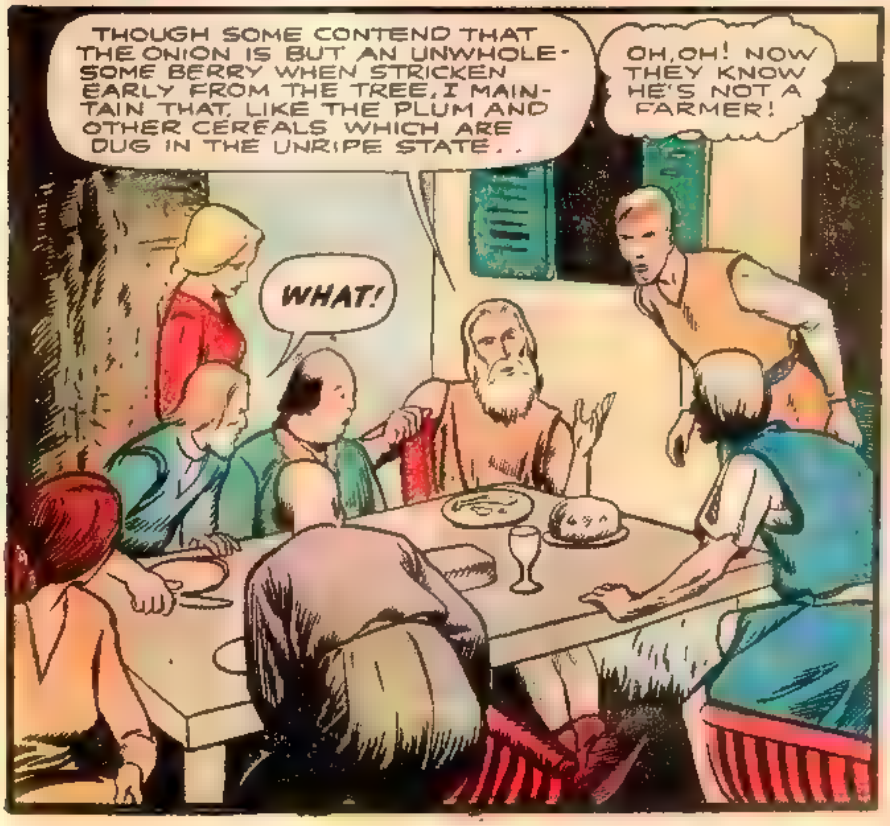
A CONNECTICUT YANKEE

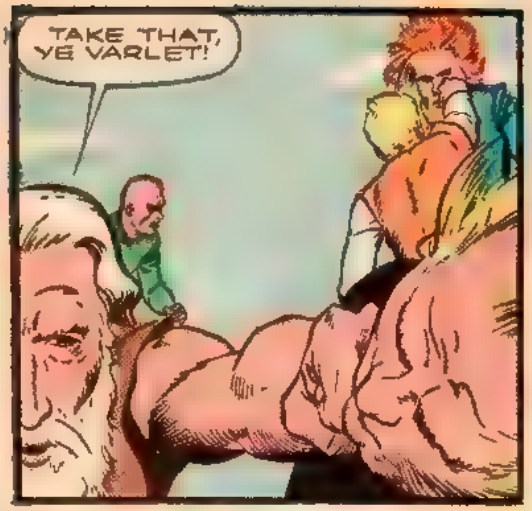


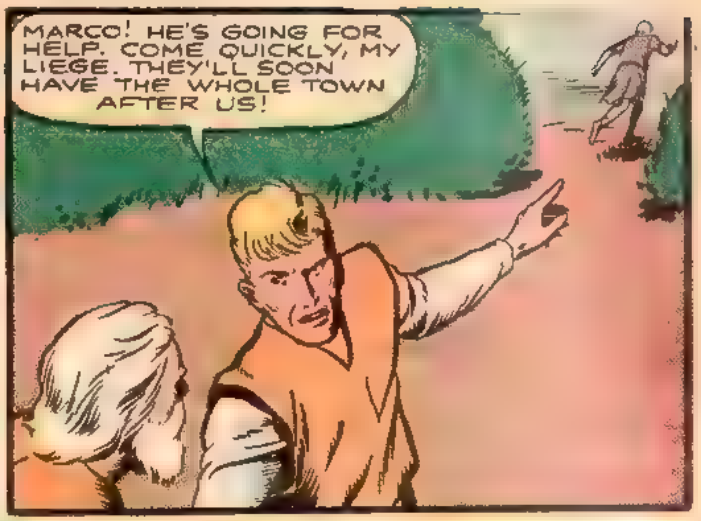


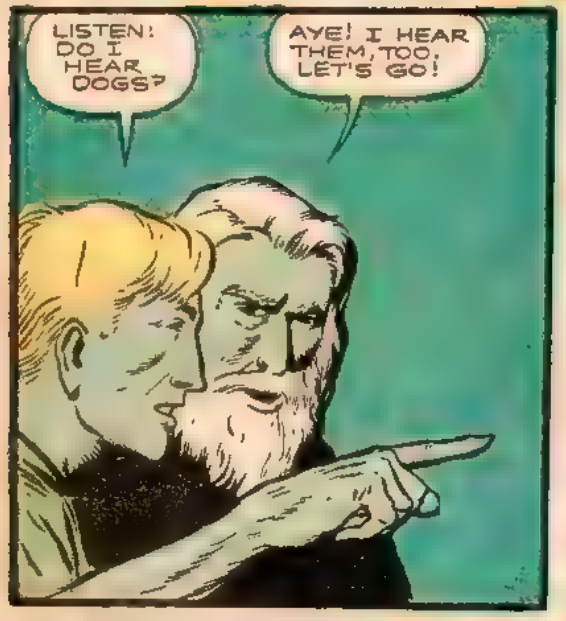


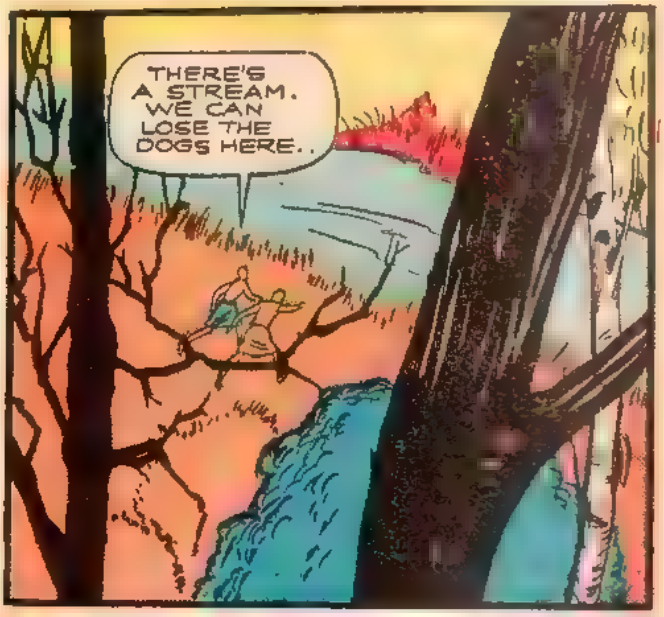


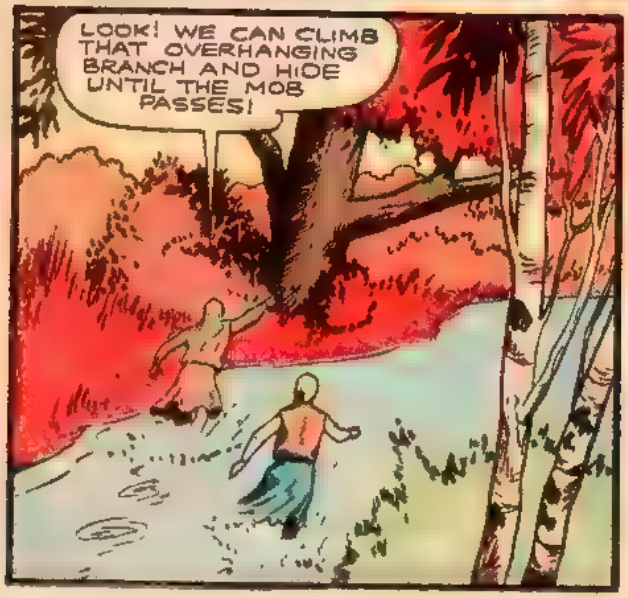



TAKE THAT, YE VARLET!


MARCO! HE'S GOING FOR HELP. COME QUICKLY, MY LIEGE. THEY'LL SOON HAVE THE WHOLE TOWN AFTER US!


LISTEN! DO I HEAR DOGS?
AYE! I HEAR THEM, TOO. LET'S GO!

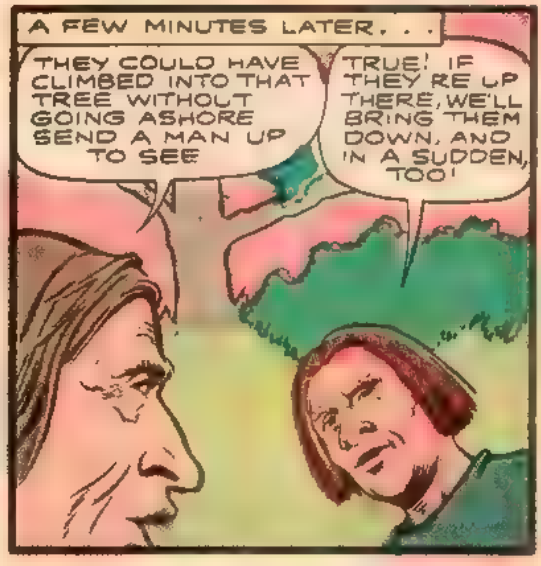

THERE'S A STREAM. WE CAN LOSE THE DOGS HERE..

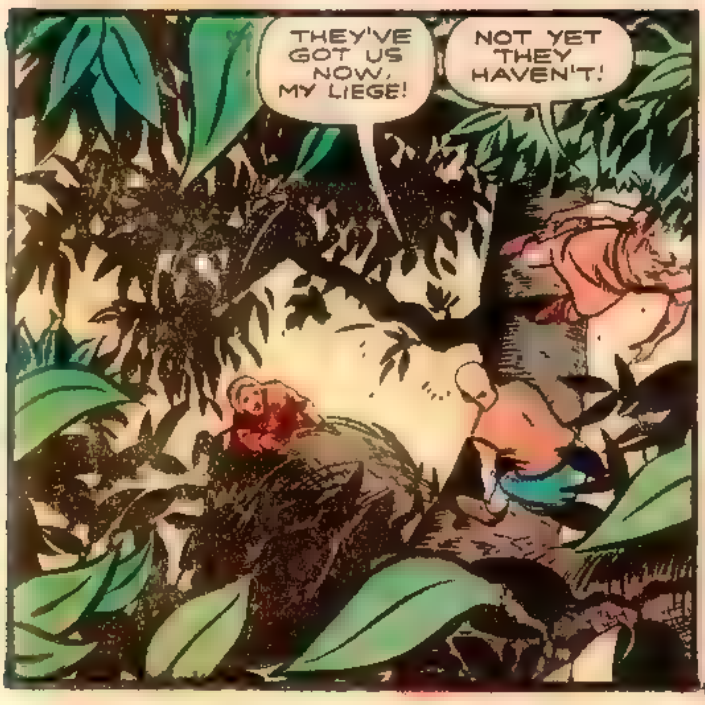

LOOK! WE CAN CLIMB THAT OVERHANGING BRANCH AND HIDE UNTIL THE MOB PASSES!

UP YOU GO! THE DOGS WON'T HAVE ANY WAY TO PICK UP OUR SCENT NOW!

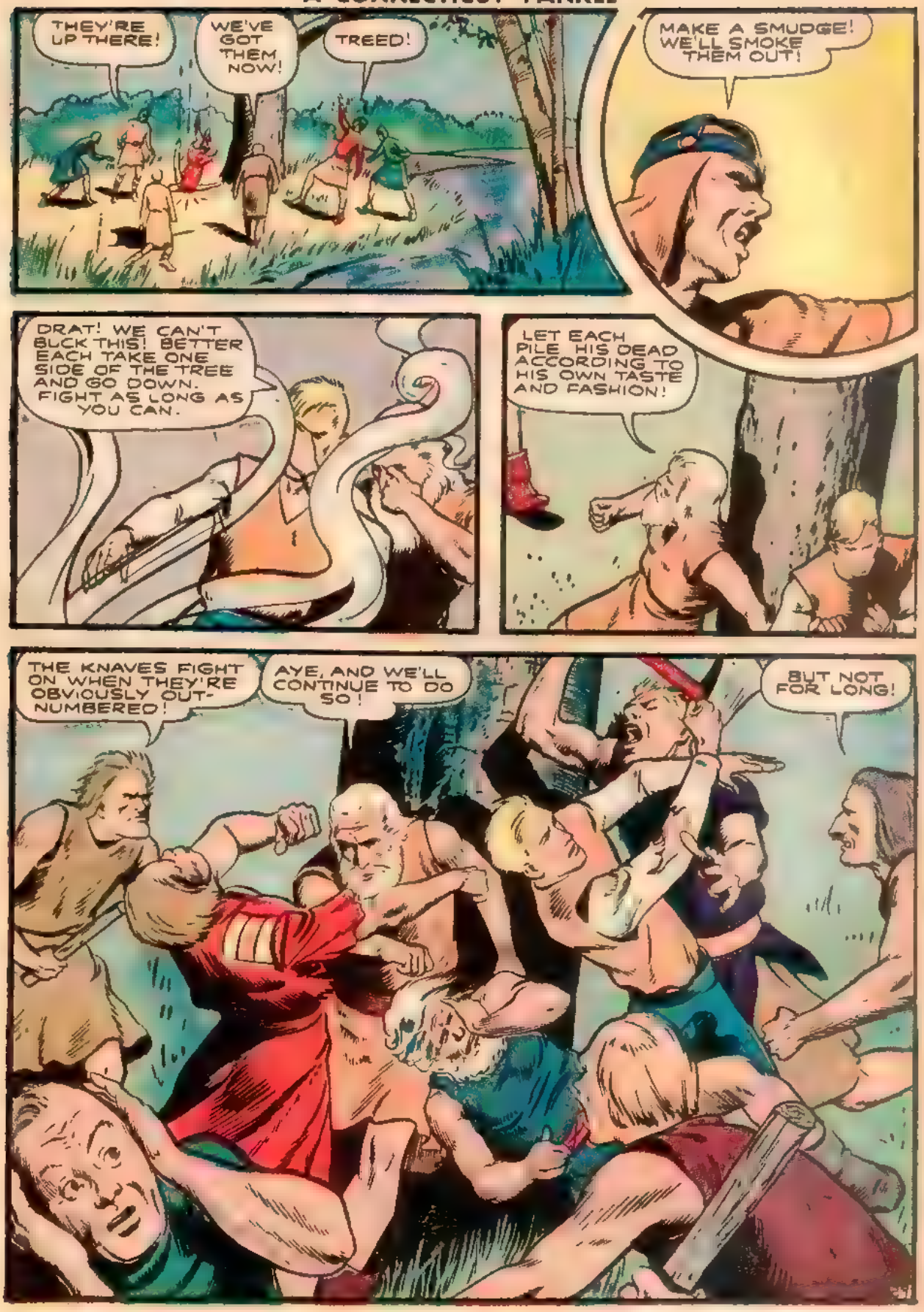
AH! THERE THEY GO! NEVER SPOTTED US!

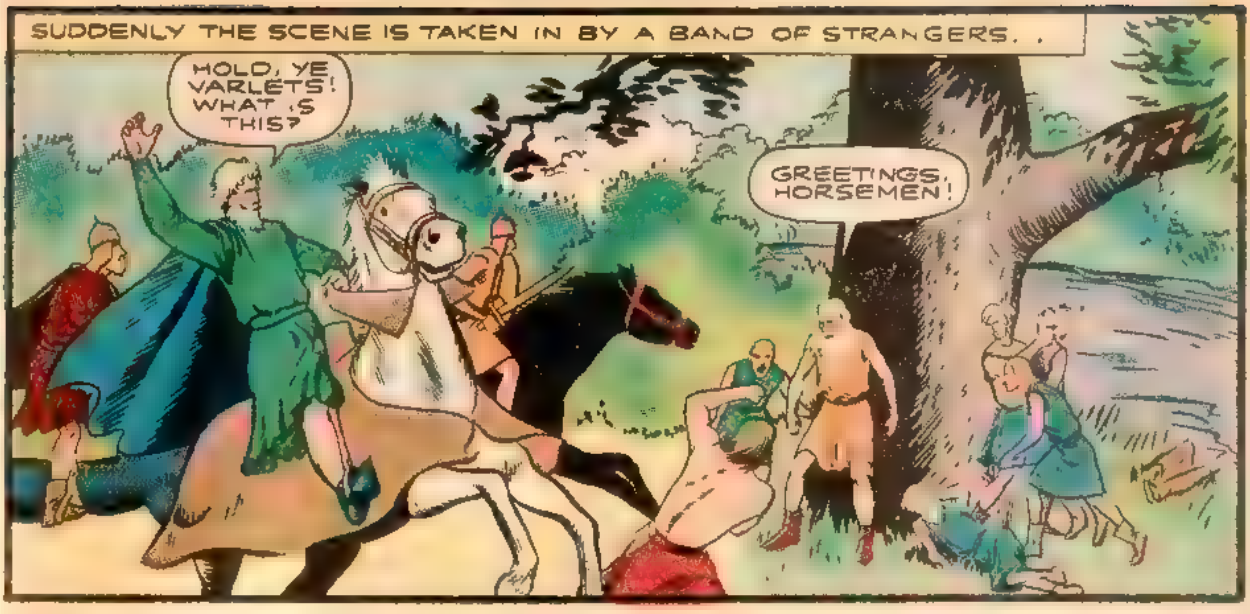
WE'D BETTER WAIT A WHILE LONGER, SIRE. THEY MAY RETURN.
FIE! 'TIS MOST UNCOMFORTABLE, BUT I'LL DO AS YOU SAY, SIR BOSS.

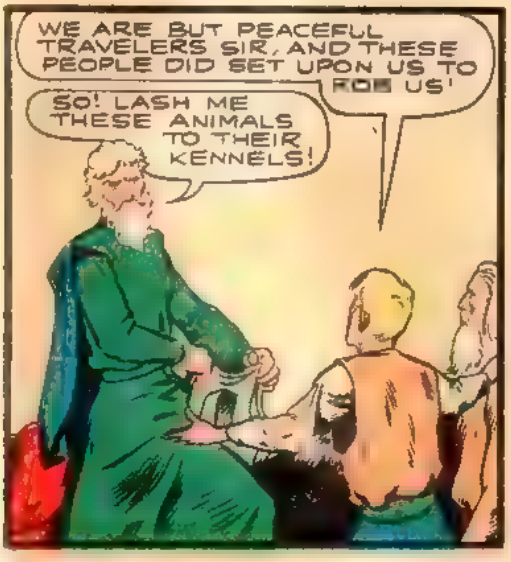

A FEW MINUTES LATER. . .
THEY COULD HAVE CLIMBED INTO THAT TREE WITHOUT GOING ASHORE SEND A MAN UP TO SEE
TRUE! IF THEY RE UP THERE, WE'LL BRING THEM DOWN, AND IN A SUDDEN, TOO!

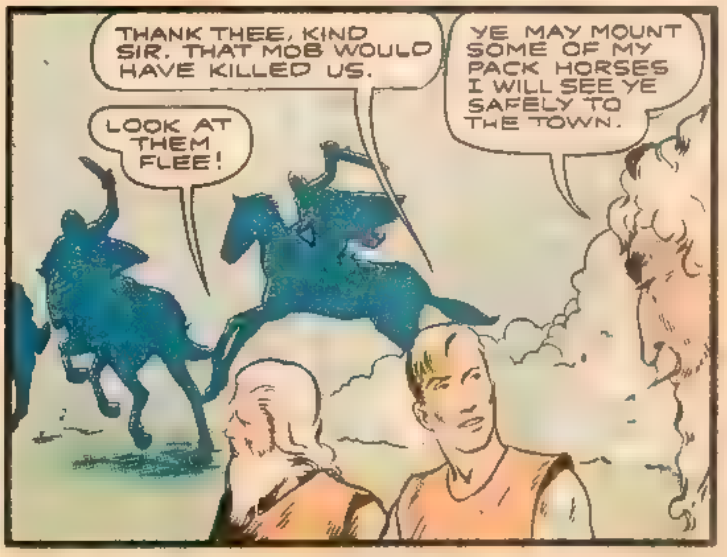

THEY'VE GOT US NOW, MY LIEGE!
NOT YET THEY HAVEN'T!

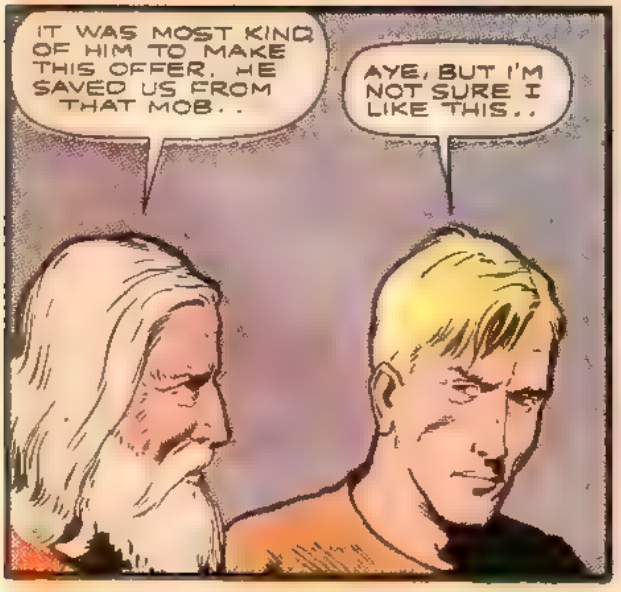
TAKE THAT, YOU VARLET!
AHH

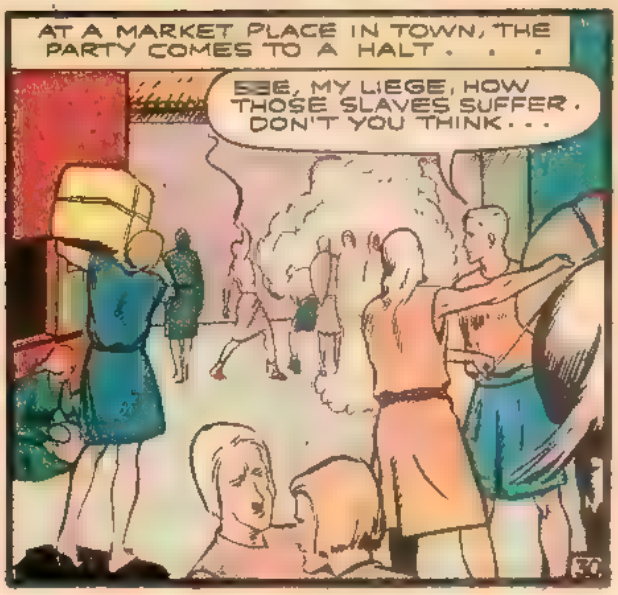

THEY'RE UP THERE!
WE'VE GOT THEM NOW!
TREED!
MAKE A SMUDGE! WE'LL SMOKE THEM OUT!
DRAT! WE CAN'T BUCK THIS! BETTER EACH TAKE ONE SIDE OF THE TREE AND GO DOWN. FIGHT AS LONG AS YOU CAN.
LET EACH PILE HIS DEAD ACCORDING TO HIS OWN TASTE AND FASHION!
THE KNAVES FIGHT ON WHEN THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY OUT-NUMBERED!
AYE, AND WE'LL CONTINUE TO DO SO!
BUT NOT FOR LONG!

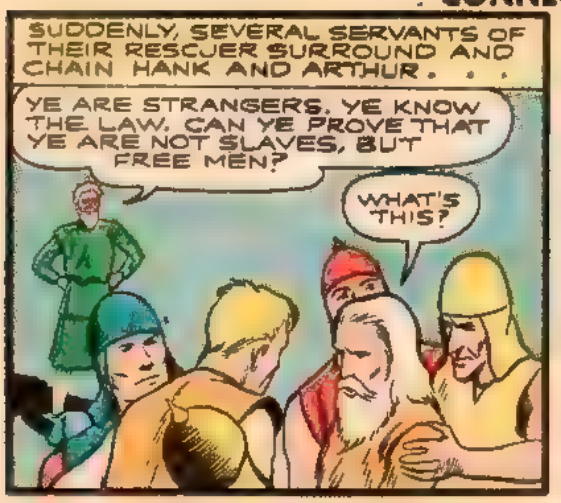

SUDDENLY THE SCENE IS TAKEN IN BY A BAND OF STRANGERS. .
HOLD, YE VARLETS! WHAT IS THIS?
GREETINGS, HORSEMEN!

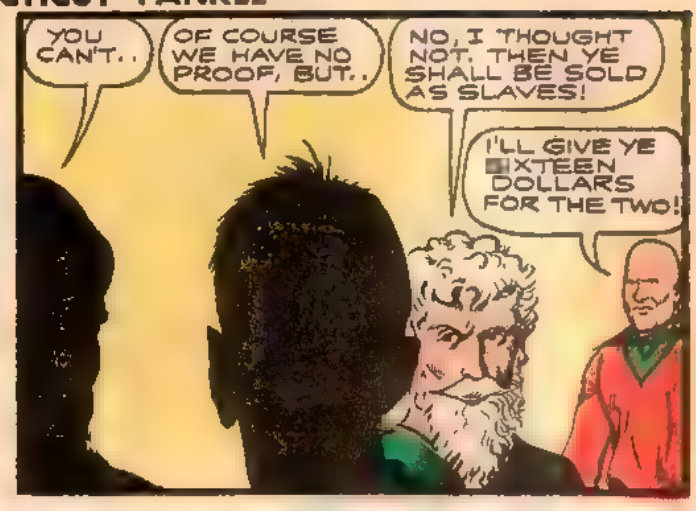

WE ARE BUT PEACEFUL TRAVELERS SIR, AND THESE PEOPLE DID SET UPON US TO ROB US!
SO! LASH ME THESE ANIMALS TO THEIR KENNELS!

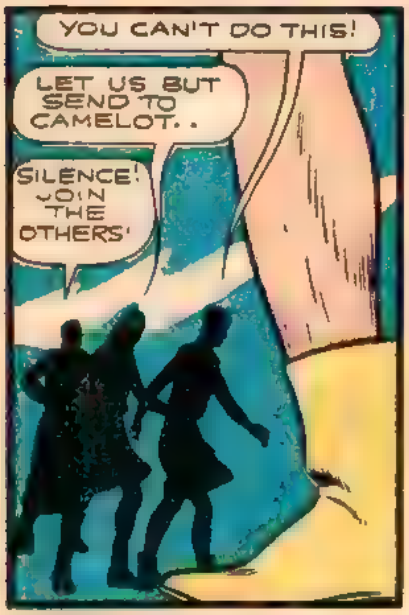

THANK THEE, KIND SIR. THAT MOB WOULD HAVE KILLED US.
YE MAY MOUNT SOME OF MY PACK HORSES I WILL SEE YE SAFELY TO THE TOWN.
LOOK AT THEM FLEE!

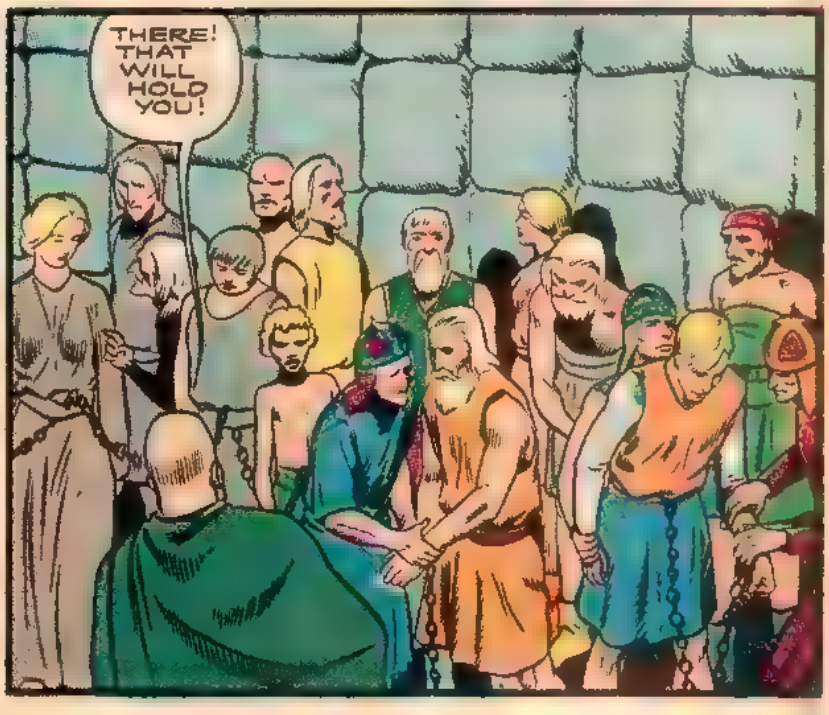

IT WAS MOST KIND OF HIM TO MAKE THIS OFFER. HE SAVED US FROM THAT MOB. .
AYE, BUT I'M NOT SURE I LIKE THIS. .


AT A MARKET PLACE IN TOWN, THE PARTY COMES TO A HALT. . .
SEE, MY LIEGE, HOW THOSE SLAVES SUFFER. DON'T YOU THINK. . .

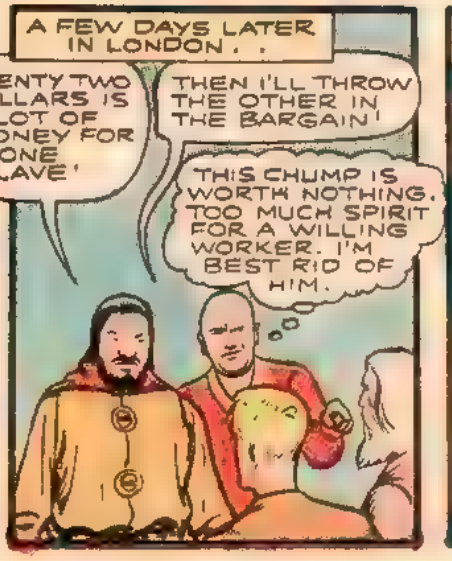

SUDDENLY, SEVERAL SERVANTS OF THEIR RESCUER SURROUND AND CHAIN HANK AND ARTHUR . . .
YE ARE STRANGERS. YE KNOW THE LAW. CAN YE PROVE THAT YE ARE NOT SLAVES, BUT FREE MEN?
WHAT'S THIS?

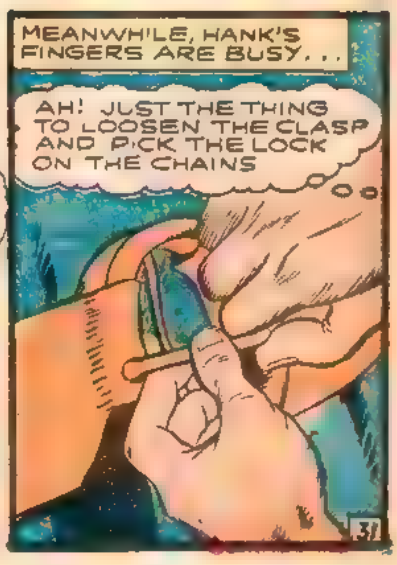

YOU CAN'T..
OF COURSE WE HAVE NO PROOF, BUT..
NO, I THOUGHT NOT. THEN YE SHALL BE SOLD AS SLAVES!
I'LL GIVE YE SIXTEEN DOLLARS FOR THE TWO!


YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
LET US BUT SEND TO CAMELOT..
SILENCE! JOIN THE OTHERS!

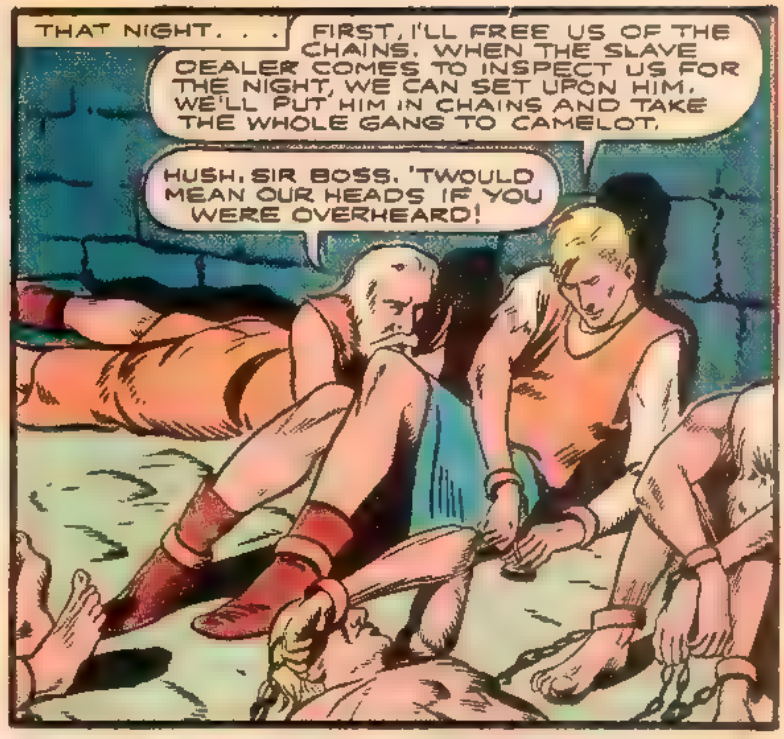

THERE! THAT WILL HOLD YOU!

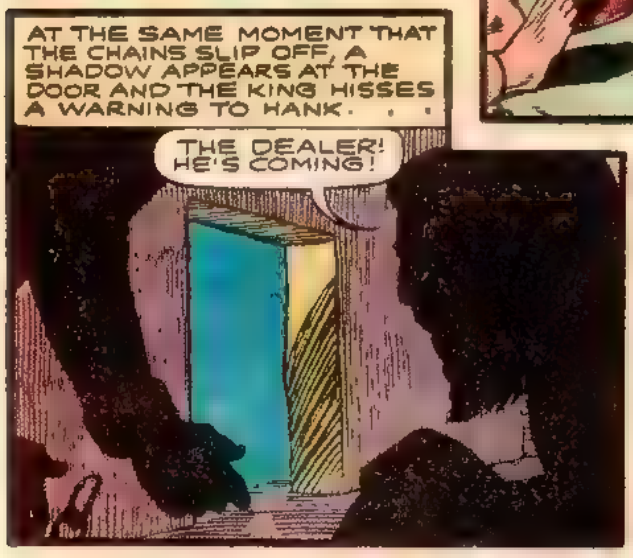
PICK UP YOUR CHAINS AND MARCH! WE'RE OFF AGAIN!

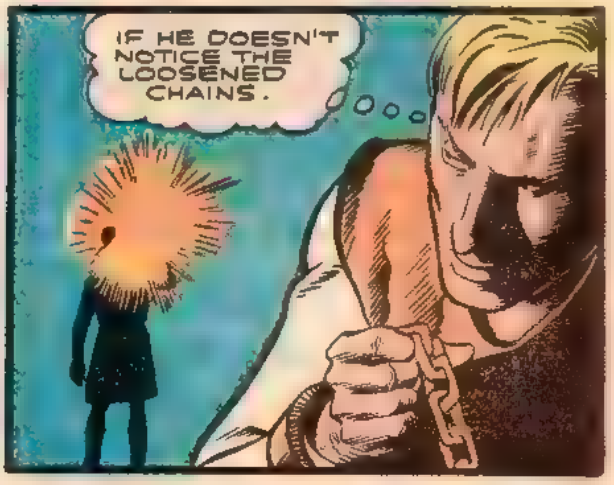

A FEW DAYS LATER IN LONDON . .
TWENTY TWO DOLLARS IS A LOT OF MONEY FOR ONE SLAVE!
THEN I'LL THROW THE OTHER IN THE BARGAIN!
THIS CHUMP IS WORTH NOTHING. TOO MUCH SPIRIT FOR A WILLING WORKER. I'M BEST RID OF HIM.

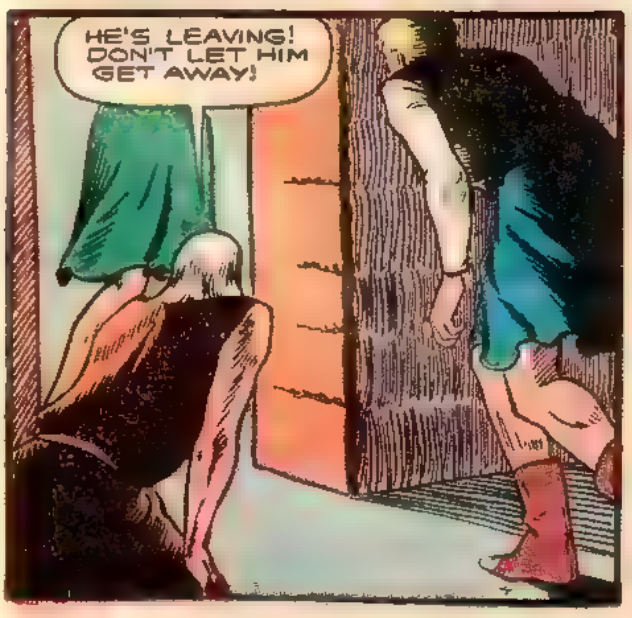

MEANWHILE, HANK'S FINGERS ARE BUSY. . .
AH! JUST THE THING TO LOOSEN THE CLASP AND PICK THE LOCK ON THE CHAINS

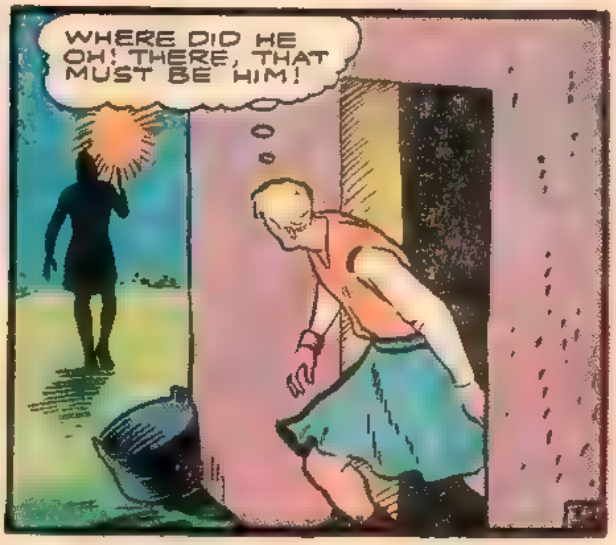
THE OTHER ISN'T WORTH MUCH. LET ME THINK ON IT. I'LL LET YE KNOW MY DECISION IN THE MORNING.
CERTAINLY I'LL HOLD THEM BOTH FOR YOU.

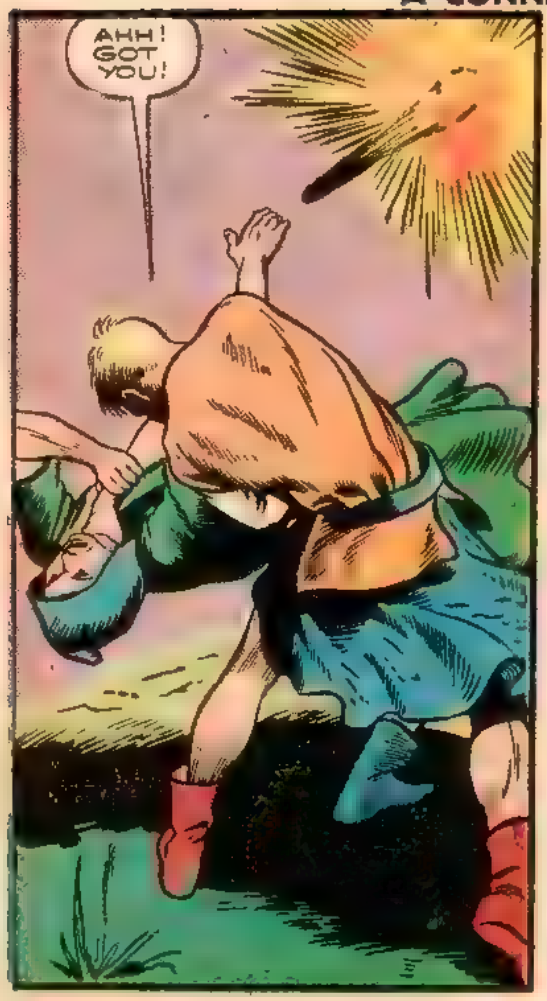

THAT NIGHT. . .
FIRST, I'LL FREE US OF THE CHAINS. WHEN THE SLAVE DEALER COMES TO INSPECT US FOR THE NIGHT, WE CAN SET UPON HIM. WE'LL PUT HIM IN CHAINS AND TAKE THE WHOLE GANG TO CAMELOT.
HUSH, SIR BOSS. 'TWOULD MEAN OUR HEADS IF YOU WERE OVERHEARD!

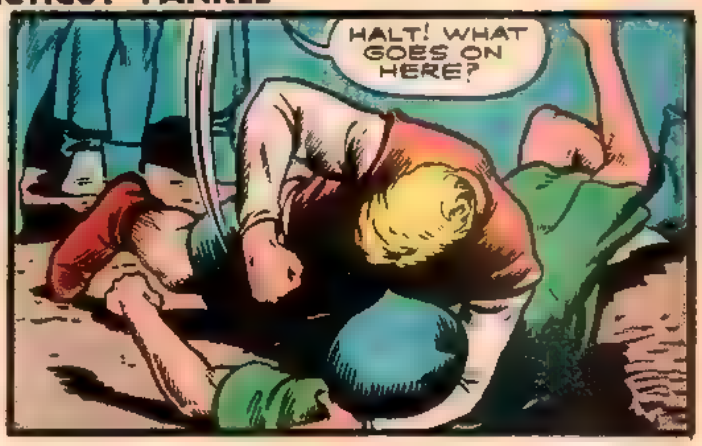

AT THE SAME MOMENT THAT THE CHAINS SLIP OFF, A SHADOW APPEARS AT THE DOOR AND THE KING HISSES A WARNING TO HANK. . .
THE DEALER! HE'S COMING!

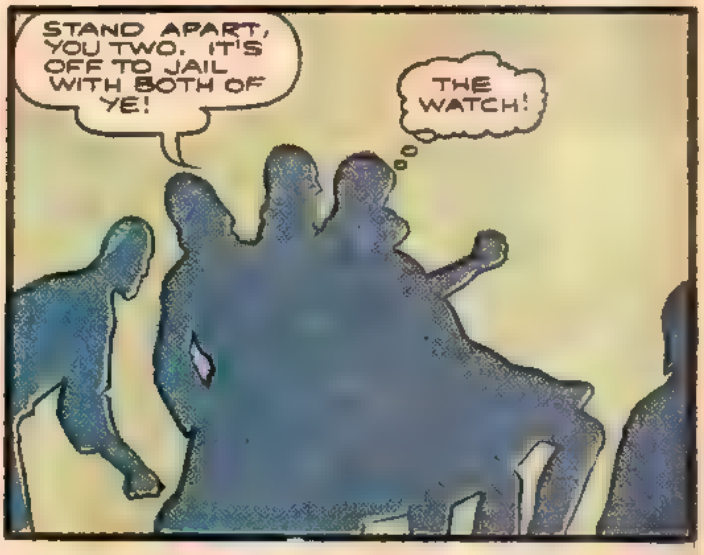

IF HE DOESN'T NOTICE THE LOOSENED CHAINS.


HE'S LEAVING! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

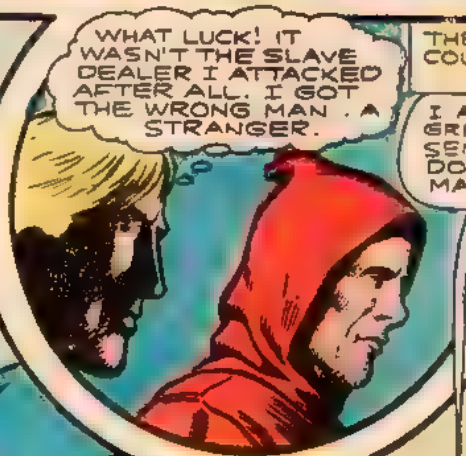

WHERE DID HE OH! THERE, THAT MUST BE HIM!


AHH! GOT YOU!


HALT! WHAT GOES ON HERE?


STAND APART, YOU TWO. IT'S OFF TO JAIL WITH BOTH OF YE!
THE WATCH!

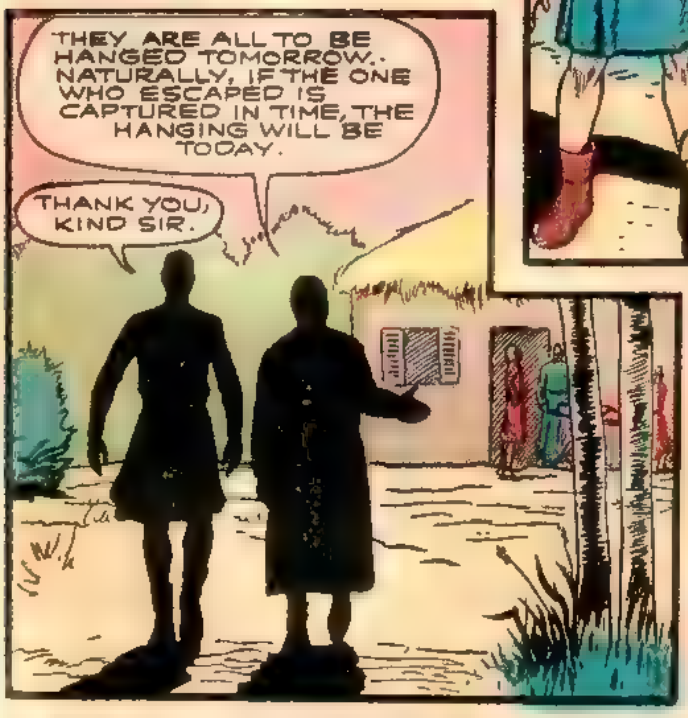
HE DOESN'T KNOW WHO I AM YET, BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN HE DISCOVERS I'M A SLAVE ESCAPING FROM HIS GANG?

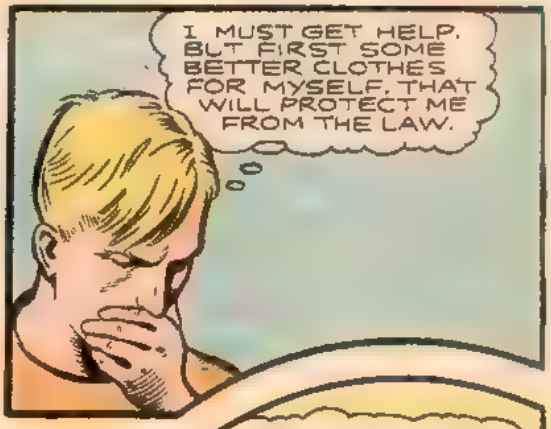

WHAT LUCK! IT WASN'T THE SLAVE DEALER I ATTACKED AFTER ALL. I GOT THE WRONG MAN . A STRANGER.

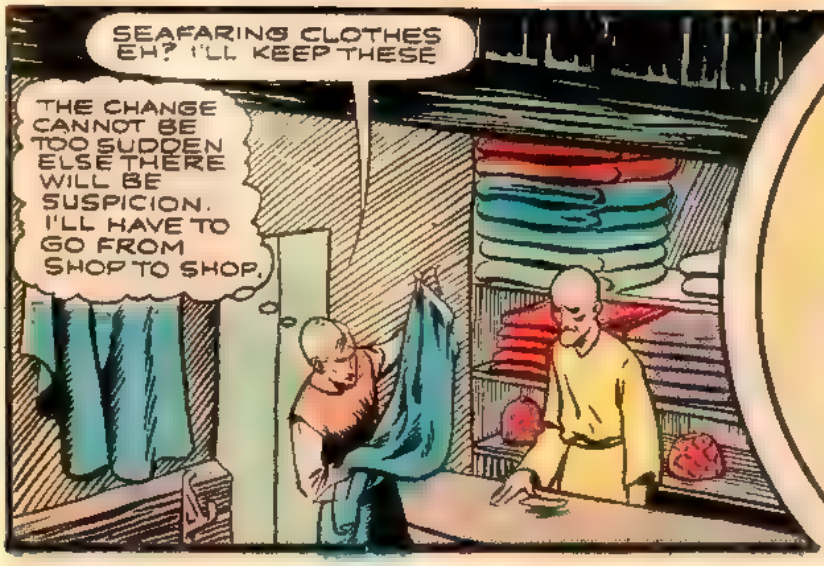
THE FOLLOWING MORNING IN COURT, THEY BOTH FACE A JUDGE. .
I AM A SLAVE OF THE EARL GRIP. MY MASTER IS ILL AND SENT ME TO FETCH A DOCTOR. ON MY WAY, THIS MAN DID SET UPON ME..
IT IS NOT TRUE! THIS ROBBER...
SILENCE! YOU WILL BE LASHED. THAT WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO TREAT THE SERVANT OF A NOBLEMAN!

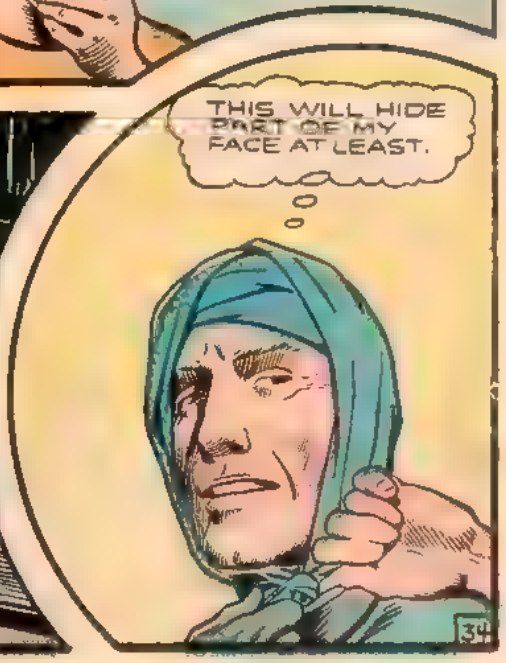
HA! NOW I MUST SEE HOW THINGS ARE GOING WITH THE SLAVES!

WELL! WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
SOME SLAVES SET UPON THEIR MASTER IN THE NIGHT AND BEAT HIM TO DEATH. THEY'VE ALL BEEN CAPTURED, BUT ONE!

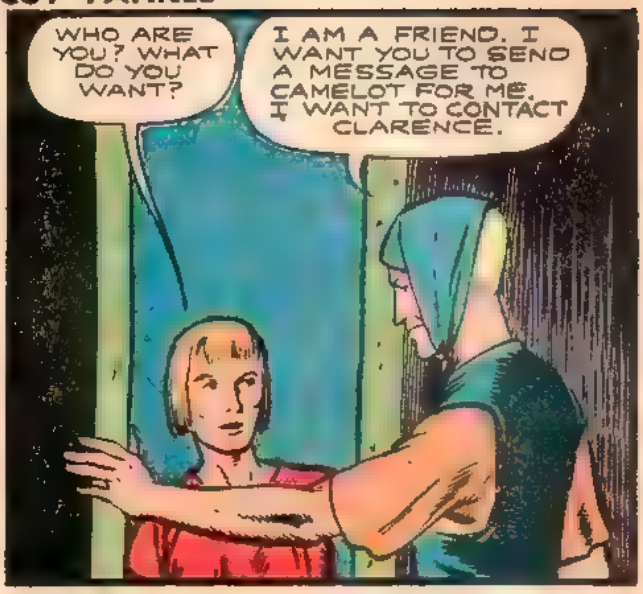

THEY ARE ALL TO BE HANGED TOMORROW. NATURALLY, IF THE ONE WHO ESCAPED IS CAPTURED IN TIME, THE HANGING WILL BE TODAY.
THANK YOU, KIND SIR.

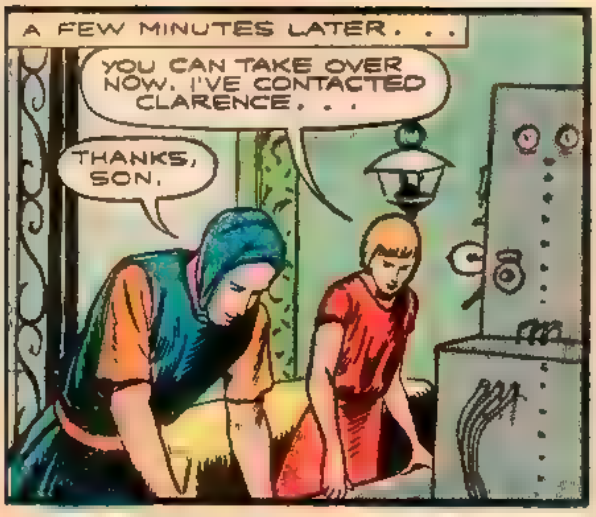

I MUST GET HELP. BUT FIRST SOME BETTER CLOTHES FOR MYSELF. THAT WILL PROTECT ME FROM THE LAW.

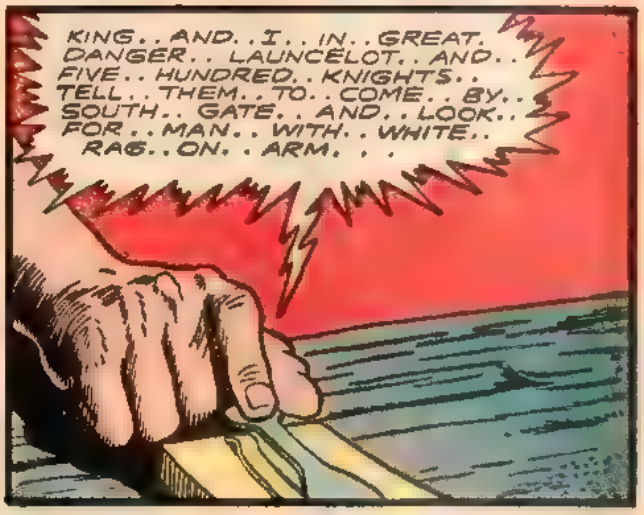

SEAFARING CLOTHES EH? I'LL KEEP THESE
THE CHANGE CANNOT BE TOO SUDDEN ELSE THERE WILL BE SUSPICION. I'LL HAVE TO GO FROM SHOP TO SHOP.


THIS WILL HIDE PART OF MY FACE AT LEAST.

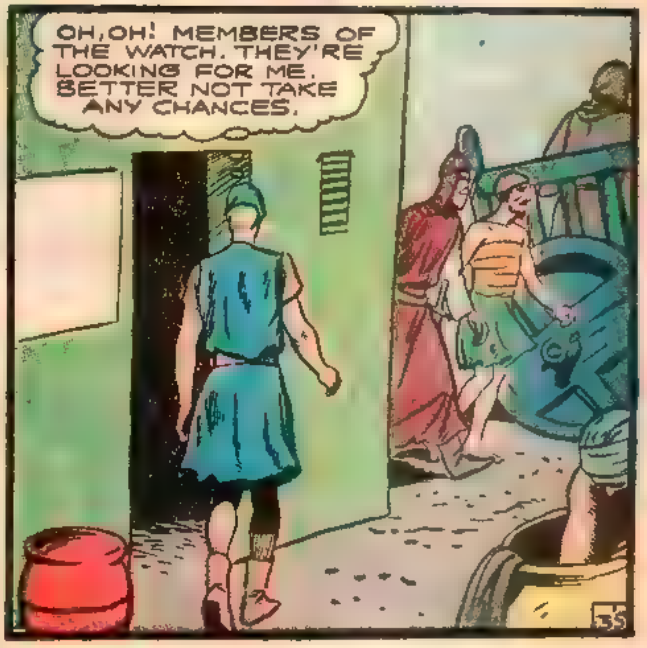
WIRES IN A BUTCHER SHOP. EITHER A TELEPHONE OR A TELEGRAPH STATION..
TCHE


WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I AM A FRIEND. I WANT YOU TO SEND A MESSAGE TO CAMELOT FOR ME. I WANT TO CONTACT CLARENCE.

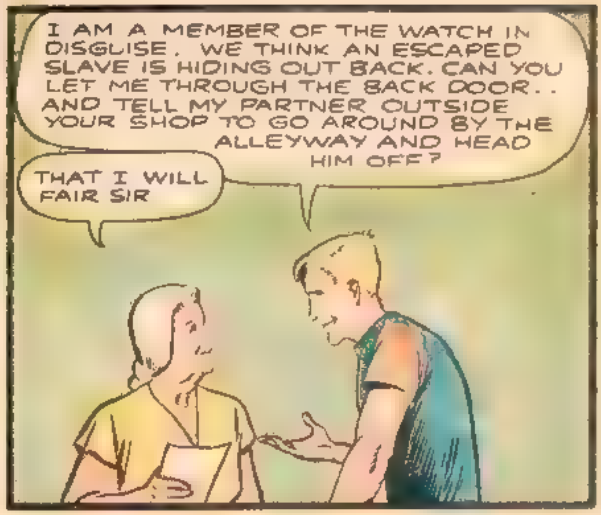

A FEW MINUTES LATER. . .
YOU CAN TAKE OVER NOW. I'VE CONTACTED CLARENCE. . .
THANKS, SON.

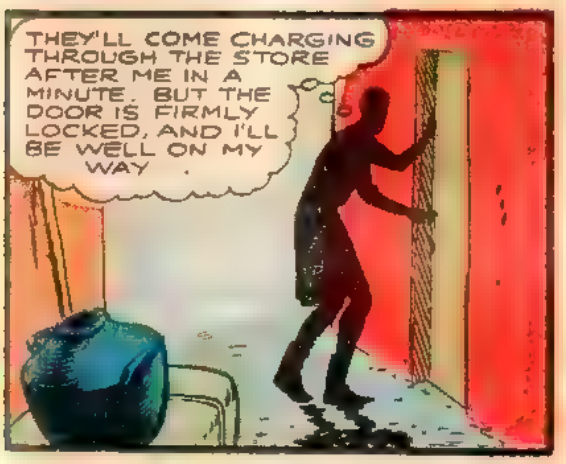

KING..AND..I..IN..GREAT. DANGER.. LAUNCELOT..AND.. FIVE..HUNDRED..KNIGHTS.. TELL..THEM..TO..COME..BY.. SOUTH..GATE..AND..LOOK.. FOR..MAN..WITH..WHITE.. RAG..ON..ARM. . .

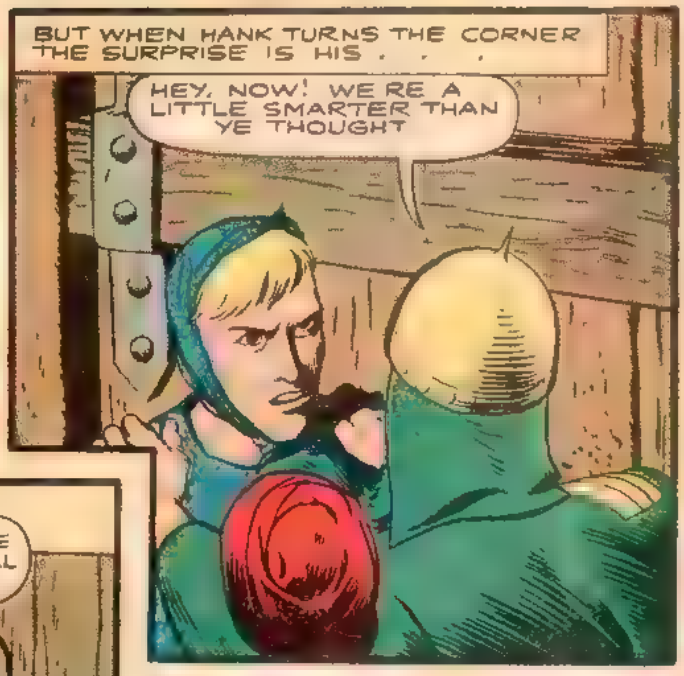
THANKS, AGAIN. DON'T MENTION THIS TO ANYONE.
BUT WHO ARE YOU, AND WHAT?..


OH,OH! MEMBERS OF THE WATCH. THEY'RE LOOKING FOR ME. BETTER NOT TAKE ANY CHANCES.

GOOD THING THIS SHOP WAS HANDY FOR ME TO SLIP INTO. THEY'VE STOPPED! I'D BETTER FIGURE SOMETHING OUT FAST

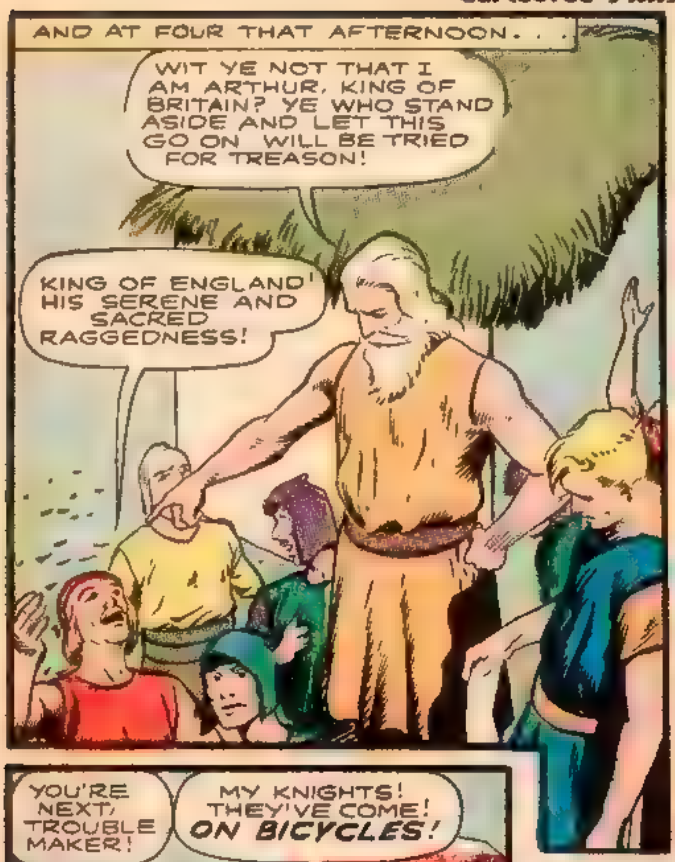

I AM A MEMBER OF THE WATCH IN DISGUISE. WE THINK AN ESCAPED SLAVE IS HIDING OUT BACK. CAN YOU LET ME THROUGH THE BACK DOOR.. AND TELL MY PARTNER OUTSIDE YOUR SHOP TO GO AROUND BY THE ALLEYWAY AND HEAD HIM OFF?
THAT I WILL FAIR SIR

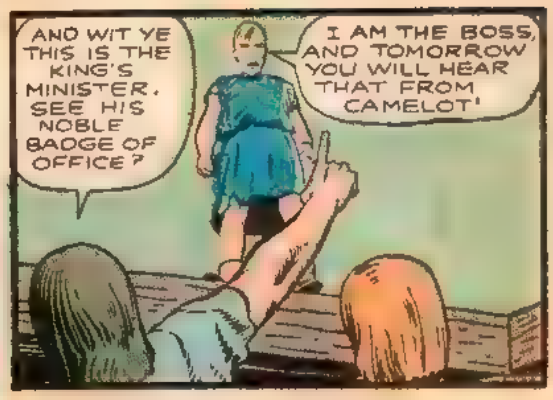

THEY'LL COME CHARGING THROUGH THE STORE AFTER ME IN A MINUTE. BUT THE DOOR IS FIRMLY LOCKED, AND I'LL BE WELL ON MY WAY

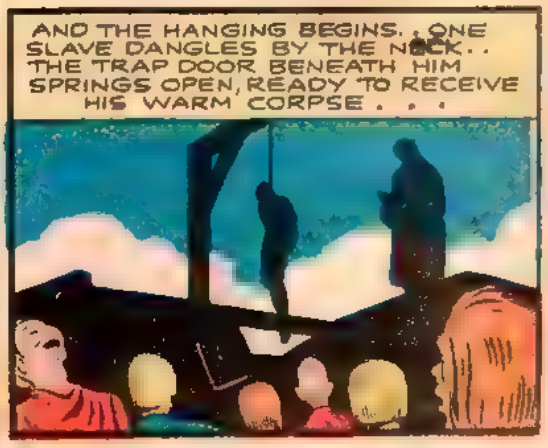

BUT WHEN HANK TURNS THE CORNER THE SURPRISE IS HIS . . .
HEY, NOW! WE'RE A LITTLE SMARTER THAN YE THOUGHT

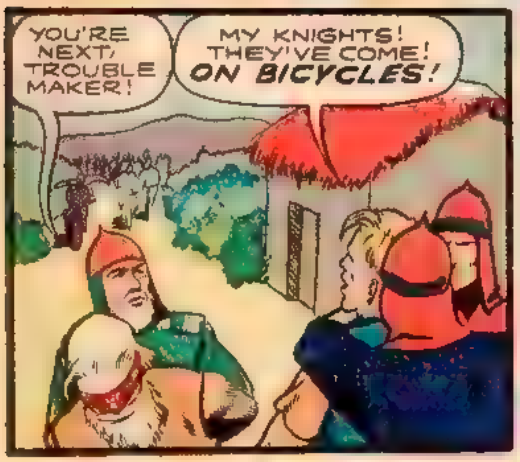
THAT'S HIM. IF WE'RE TO HANG HE'LL HANG WITH US HE CAUSED THE TROUBLE BY ESCAPING!
BOSH! NONE OF US WILL HANG!

HA! IT WILL TAKE A LOT OF TALKING TO GET YOU OUT OF THIS NOW THAT YOU ARE CAPTURED, THE WHOLE LOT OF YOU WILL HANG AT FOUR THIS AFTERNOON.
FOUR THIS AFTERNOON!? MY KNIGHTS CAN'T POSSIBLY ARRIVE BEFORE SIX ON HORSEBACK!

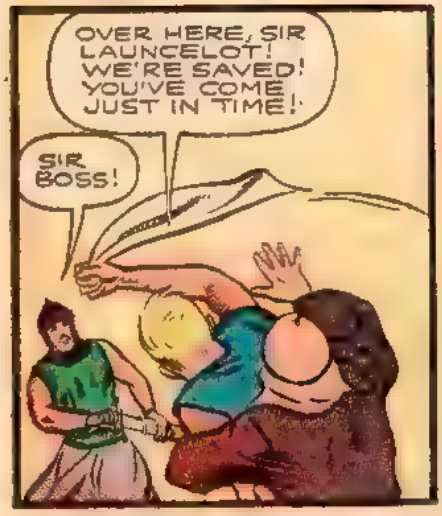

AND AT FOUR THAT AFTERNOON. . .
WIT YE NOT THAT I AM ARTHUR, KING OF BRITAIN? YE WHO STAND ASIDE AND LET THIS GO ON WILL BE TRIED FOR TREASON!
KING OF ENGLAND! HIS SERENE AND SACRED RAGGEDNESS!


AND WIT YE THIS IS THE KING'S MINISTER. SEE HIS NOBLE BADGE OF OFFICE?
I AM THE BOSS, AND TOMORROW YOU WILL HEAR THAT FROM CAMELOT!

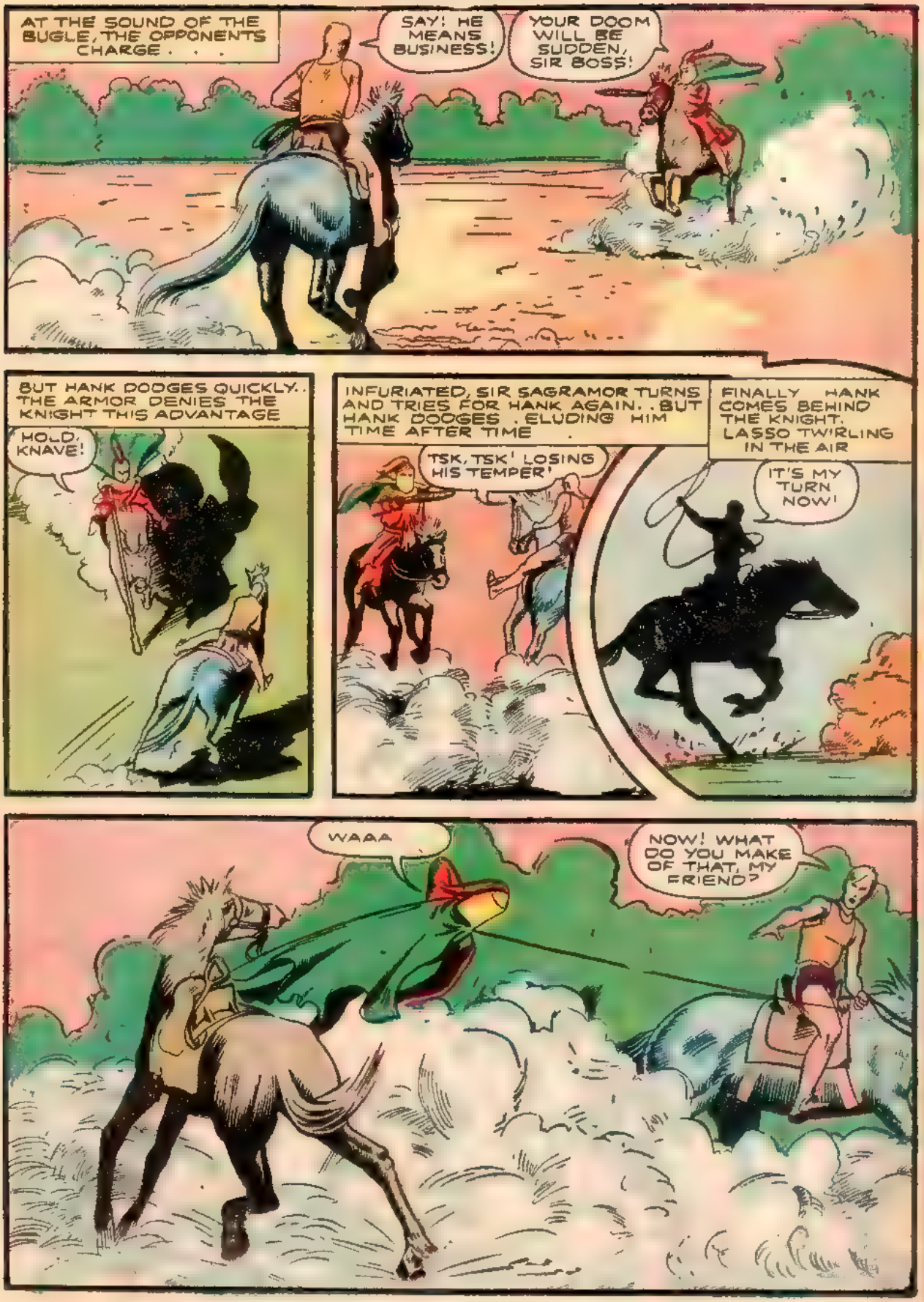

AND THE HANGING BEGINS. . ONE SLAVE DANGLES BY THE NECK. . THE TRAP DOOR BENEATH HIM SPRINGS OPEN, READY TO RECEIVE HIS WARM CORPSE . . .


YOU'RE NEXT, TROUBLE MAKER!
MY KNIGHTS! THEY'VE COME! ON BICYCLES!

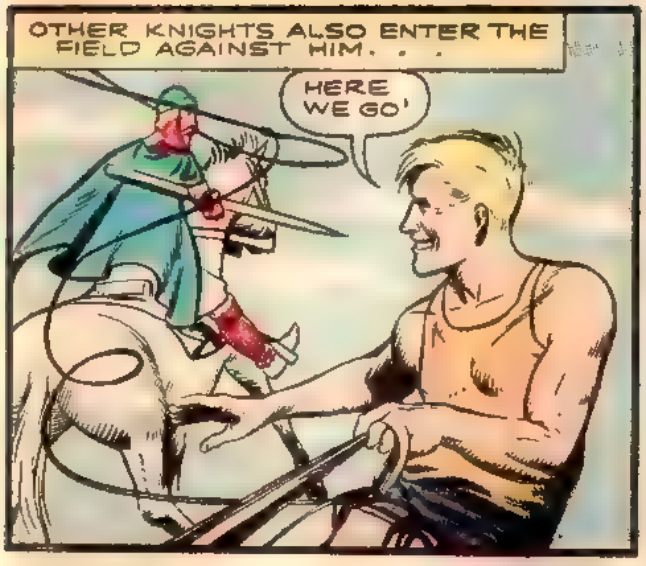
DOWN ON YOUR KNEES! SALUTE YOUR KING! ELSE YE'LL ALL SUP WITH THE DEVIL THIS VERY NIGHT!

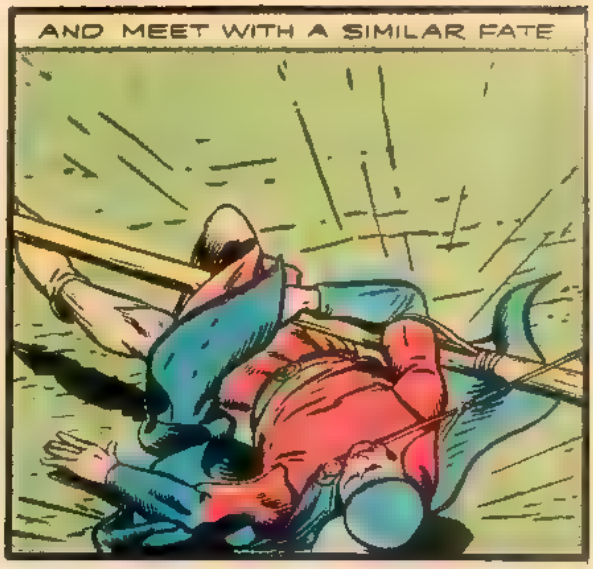

OVER HERE, SIR LAUNCELOT! WE'RE SAVED! YOU'VE COME JUST IN TIME!
SIR BOSS!

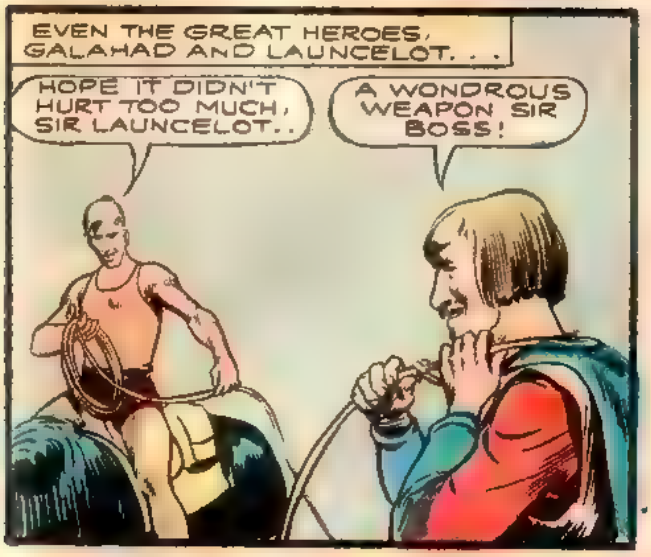
GREAT WORK, CLARENCE! I DIDN'T KNOW..
THE BICYCLES? I WAS SAVING THEM AS A SURPRISE. I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D EVER NEED THEM THIS DESPERATELY.
BUT I HAVE SERIOUS NEWS FOR YOU, SIR BOSS. SIR SAGRAMOR LE DESIROUS HAS RETURNED FROM HIS HUNT OF THE HOLY GRAIL AND WAITS TO CHALLENGE YOU IN THE LISTS!
WE RETURN TO CAMELOT IMMEDIATELY!
AND SO, A FEW DAYS LATER, IN CAMELOT'S DAILY NEWSPAPER...
TODAY, SIR BOSS AND SIR SAGRAMOR LE DESIROUS WILL MEET IN THE LISTS. THIS IS THE FIRST TOURNEY UNDER THE NEW RULING, PERMITTING KNIGHTS TO USE WHAT WEAPONS THEY MAY CHOOSE. WATCH FOR SURPRISES!
WAIT UNTIL THE CROWD SEES THAT GYMNASIUM SUIT. MERLIN HAS BEEN WORKING ENCHANTMENTS AGAINST YOU, TRYING TO HELP SIR SAGRAMOR. BUT MOST OF THE MONEY IS BET ON YOU.
HMM! WELL, THERE GOES THE BUGLE!
WILT THOU GO OUT TO JUST WITHOUT ARMS OR ARMOR?
I NEED THESE NOT, FAIR QUEEN!

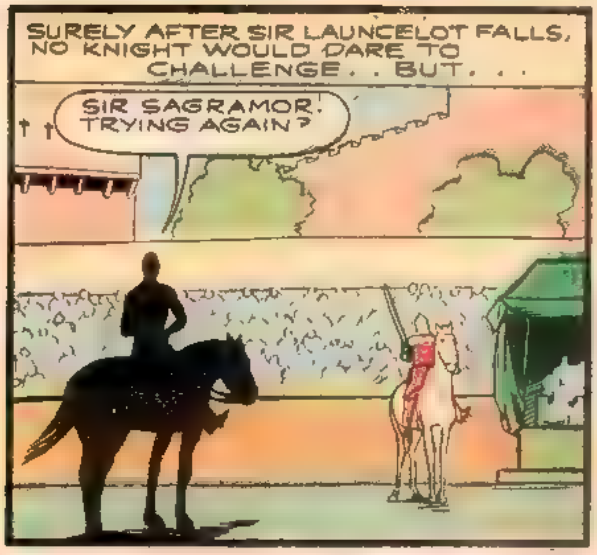

AT THE SOUND OF THE BUGLE, THE OPPONENTS CHARGE . . .
SAY! HE MEANS BUSINESS!
YOUR DOOM WILL BE SUDDEN, SIR BOSS!
BUT HANK DODGES QUICKLY. THE ARMOR DENIES THE KNIGHT THIS ADVANTAGE
HOLD, KNAVE!
INFURIATED, SIR SAGRAMOR TURNS AND TRIES FOR HANK AGAIN. . BUT HANK DODGES . ELUDING HIM TIME AFTER TIME .
'TSK, TSK! LOSING HIS TEMPER!
FINALLY HANK COMES BEHIND THE KNIGHT. LASSO TWIRLING IN THE AIR
IT'S MY TURN NOW!
WAAA
NOW! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT, MY FRIEND?

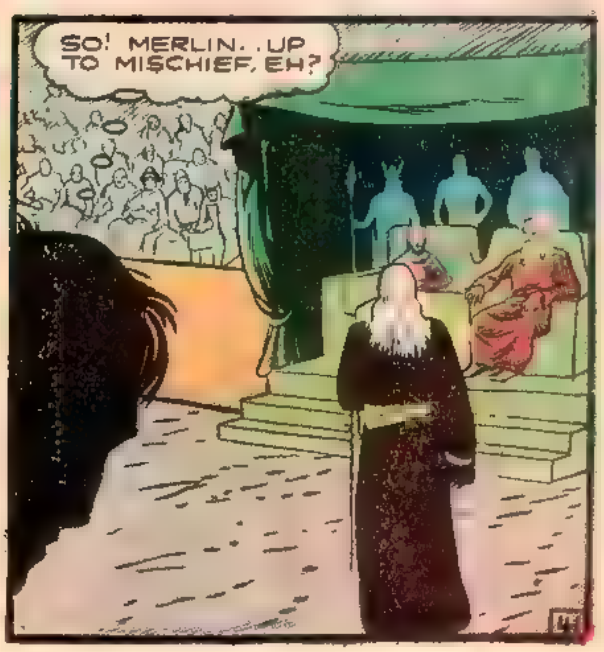
A CONNECTICUT YANKEE

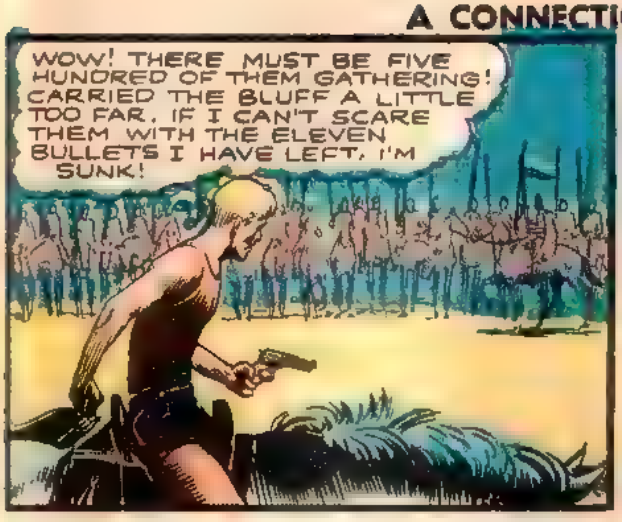




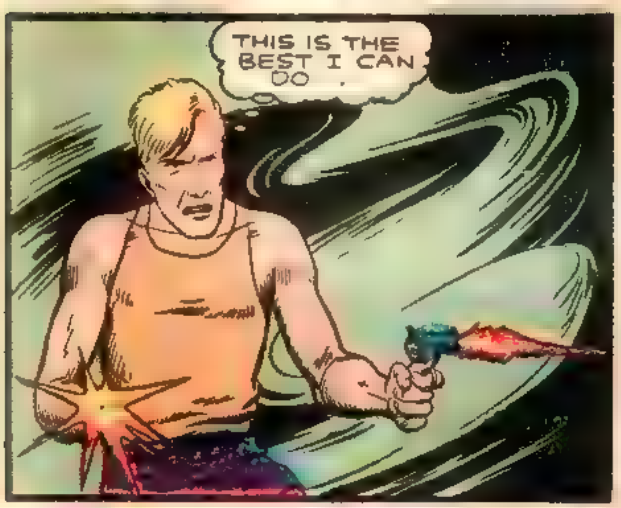


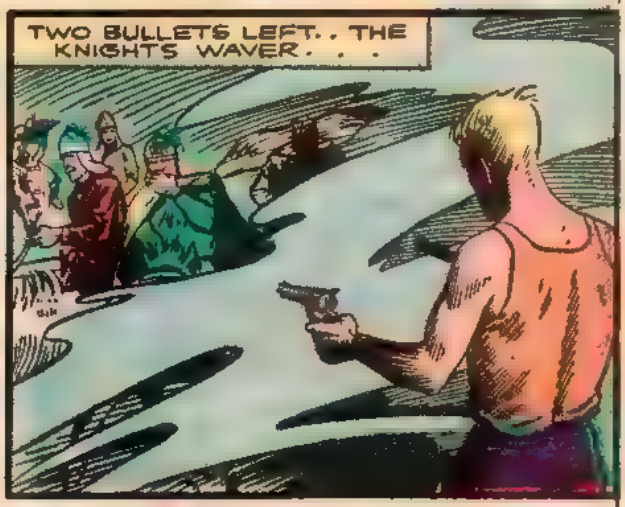




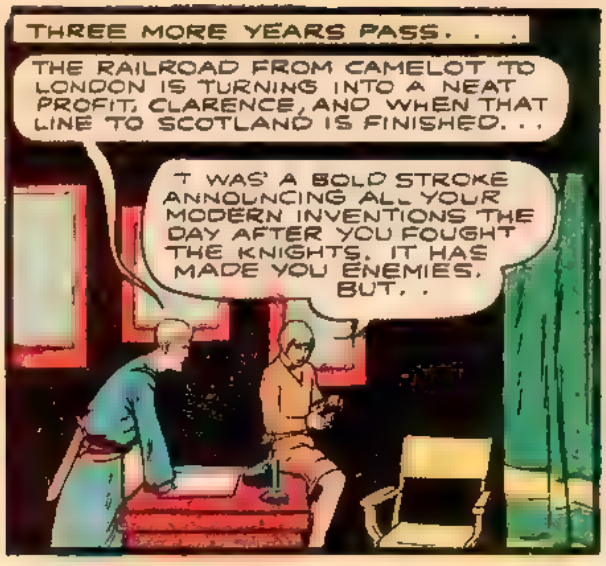

WOW! THERE MUST BE FIVE HUNDRED OF THEM GATHERING! CARRIED THE BLUFF A LITTLE TOO FAR. IF I CAN'T SCARE THEM WITH THE ELEVEN BULLETS I HAVE LEFT, I'M SUNK!

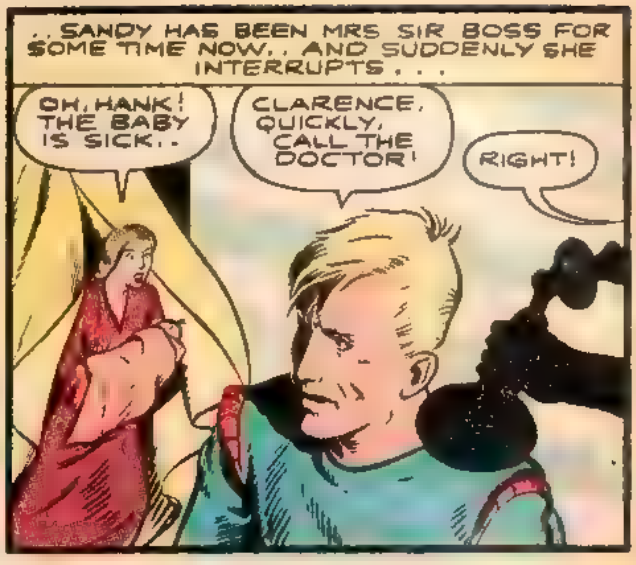
THE BUGLE! CHARGE!

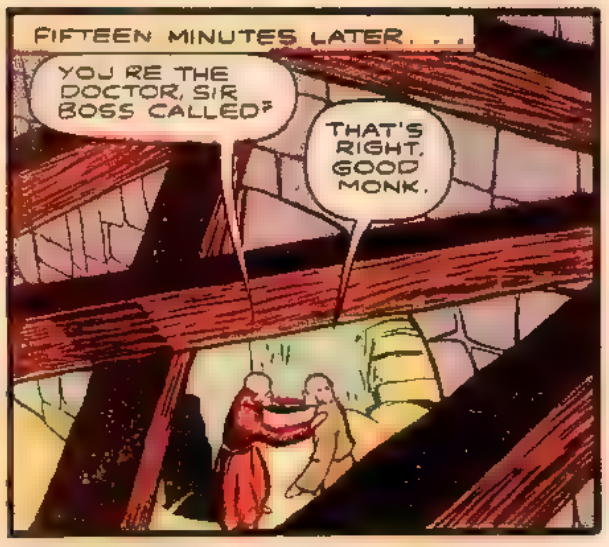

THIS IS THE BEST I CAN DO

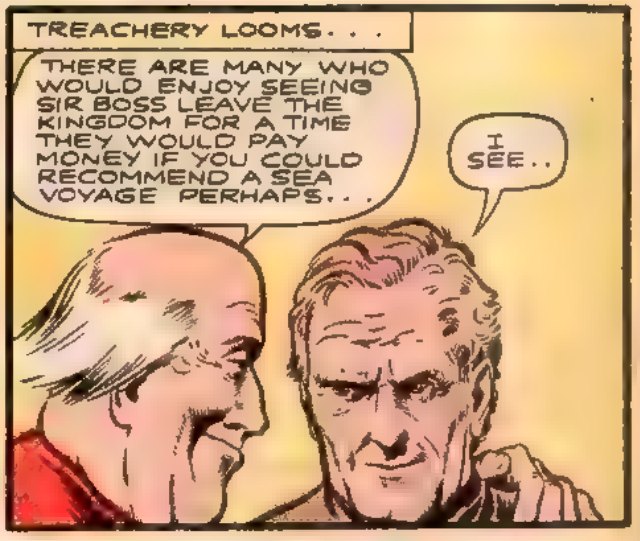

TWO BULLETS LEFT.. THE KNIGHTS WAVER. . .

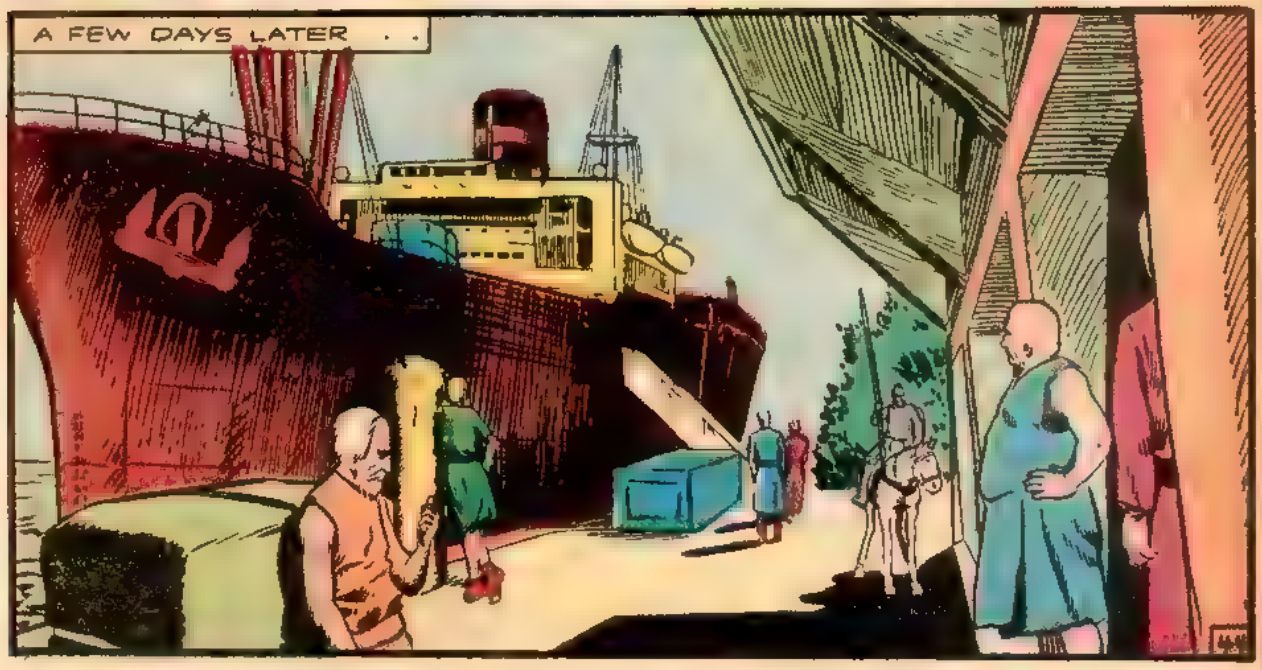
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW.. I DID IT!!

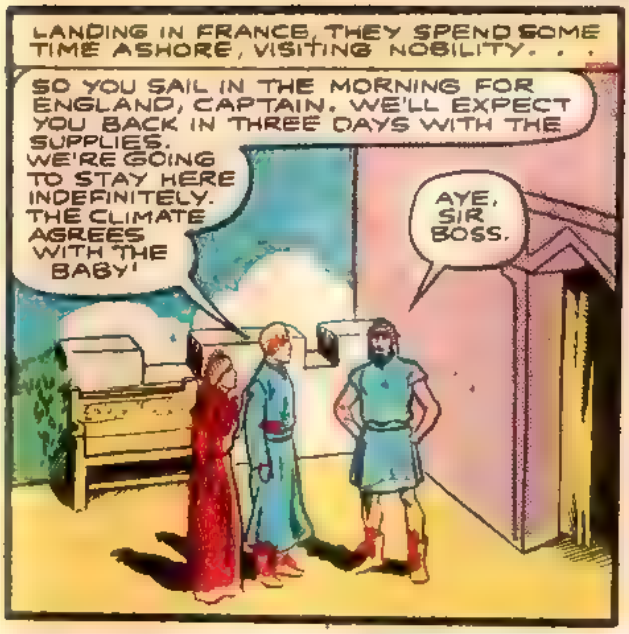

THREE MORE YEARS PASS. . .
THE RAILROAD FROM CAMELOT TO LONDON IS TURNING INTO A NEAT PROFIT, CLARENCE, AND WHEN THAT LINE TO SCOTLAND IS FINISHED. . .
'T WAS A BOLD STROKE ANNOUNCING ALL YOUR MODERN INVENTIONS THE DAY AFTER YOU FOUGHT THE KNIGHTS. IT HAS MADE YOU ENEMIES. BUT. .


. . SANDY HAS BEEN MRS SIR BOSS FOR SOME TIME NOW. . AND SUDDENLY SHE INTERRUPTS . . .
OH, HANK! THE BABY IS SICK. .
CLARENCE, QUICKLY, CALL THE DOCTOR!
RIGHT!

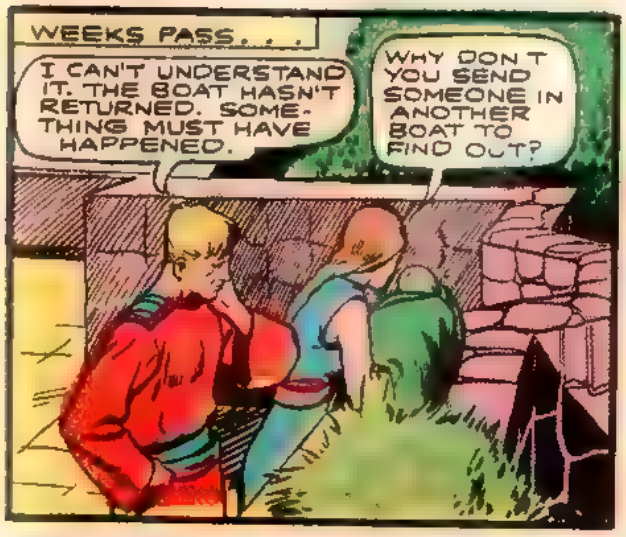

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER. . .
YOU RE THE DOCTOR, SIR BOSS CALLED?
THAT'S RIGHT, GOOD MONK.

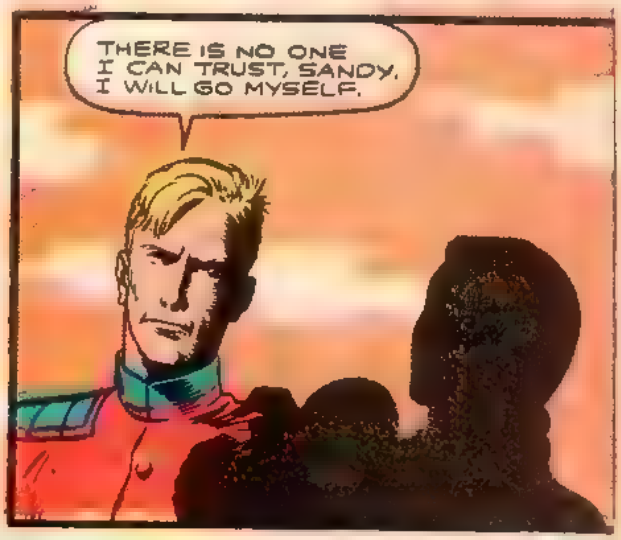

TREACHERY LOOMS. . .
THERE ARE MANY WHO WOULD ENJOY SEEING SIR BOSS LEAVE THE KINGDOM FOR A TIME THEY WOULD PAY MONEY IF YOU COULD RECOMMEND A SEA VOYAGE PERHAPS. . .
I SEE. .

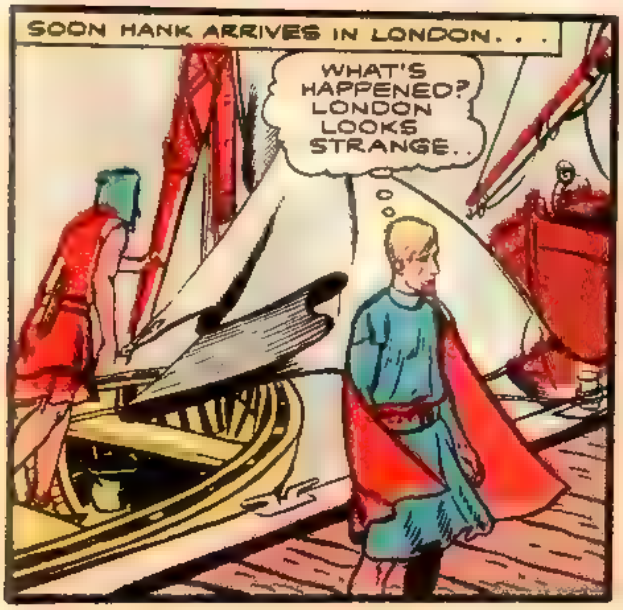

A FEW DAYS LATER . .

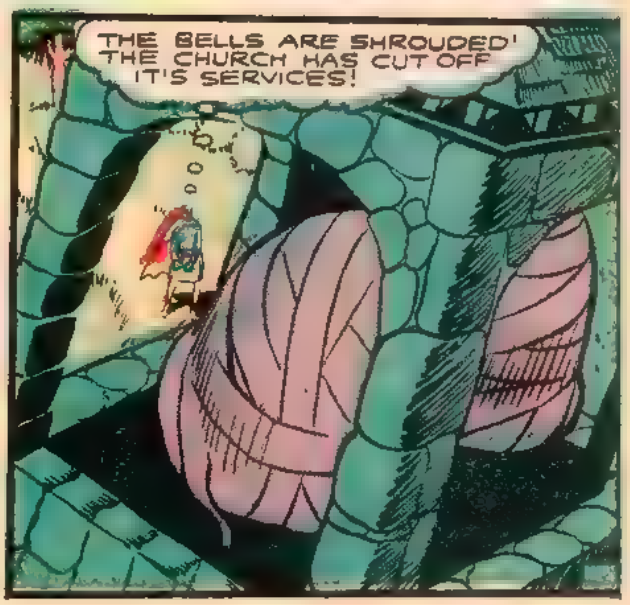

LANDING IN FRANCE, THEY SPEND SOME TIME ASHORE, VISITING NOBILITY. . .
SO YOU SAIL IN THE MORNING FOR ENGLAND, CAPTAIN. WE'LL EXPECT YOU BACK IN THREE DAYS WITH THE SUPPLIES. WE'RE GOING TO STAY HERE INDEFINITELY. THE CLIMATE AGREES WITH THE BABY!
AYE, SIR BOSS.

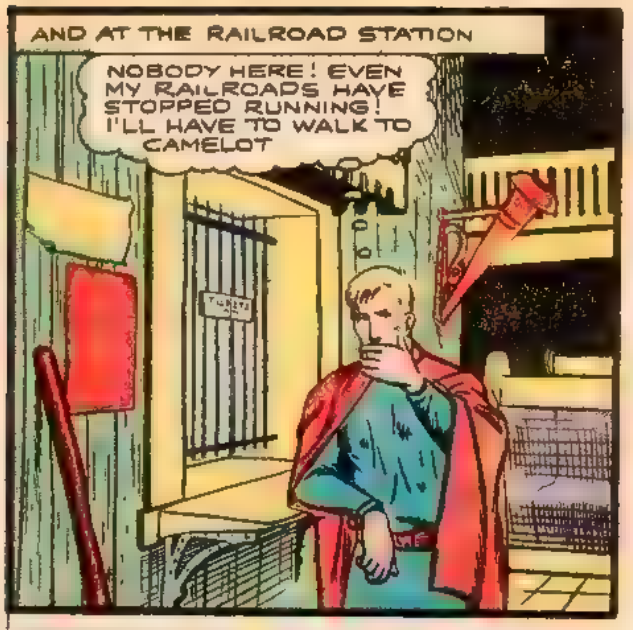
HE DOESN'T EVEN SUSPECT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ENGLAND. THIS IS THE LAST HE'LL SEE OF MY SHIP OR OF BRITAIN!

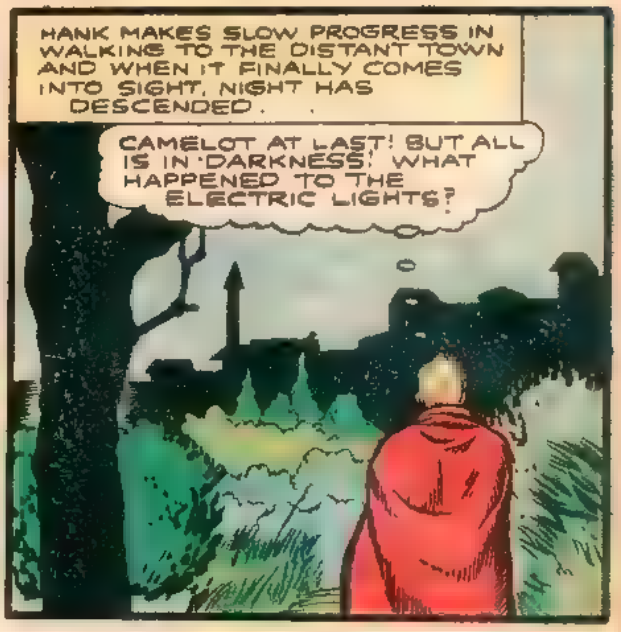

WEEKS PASS. . .
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT. THE BOAT HASN'T RETURNED. SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED.
WHY DON'T YOU SEND SOMEONE IN ANOTHER BOAT TO FIND OUT?

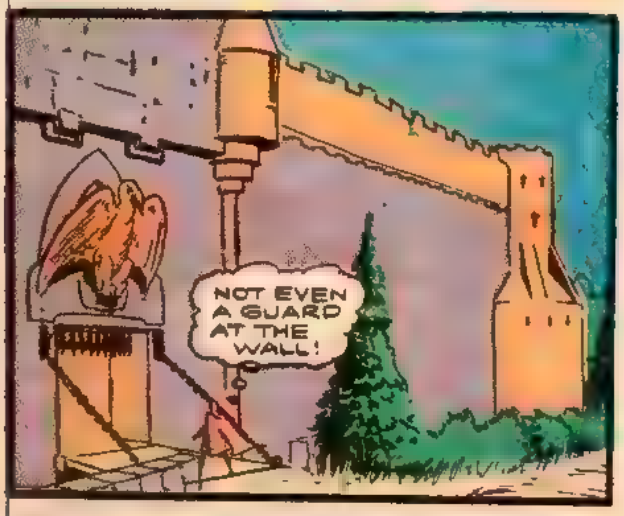

THERE IS NO ONE I CAN TRUST, SANDY. I WILL GO MYSELF.

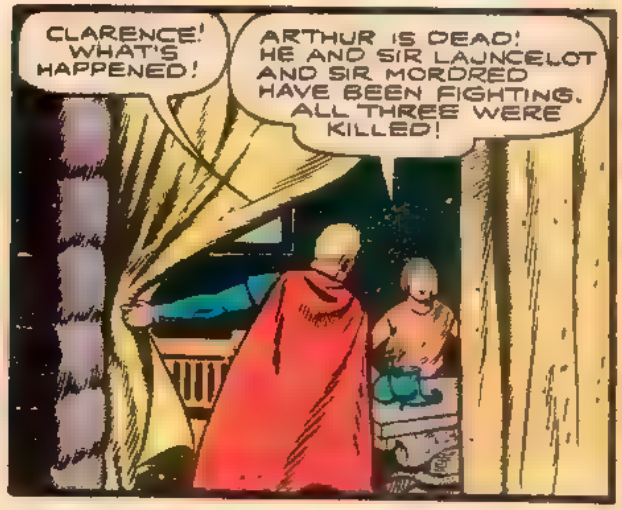

SOON HANK ARRIVES IN LONDON. . .
WHAT'S HAPPENED? LONDON LOOKS STRANGE. .


THE BELLS ARE SHROUDED! THE CHURCH HAS CUT OFF IT'S SERVICES!


AND AT THE RAILROAD STATION
NOBODY HERE! EVEN MY RAILROADS HAVE STOPPED RUNNING! I'LL HAVE TO WALK TO CAMELOT


HANK MAKES SLOW PROGRESS IN WALKING TO THE DISTANT TOWN AND WHEN IT FINALLY COMES INTO SIGHT, NIGHT HAS DESCENDED.
CAMELOT AT LAST! BUT ALL IS IN DARKNESS! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ELECTRIC LIGHTS?

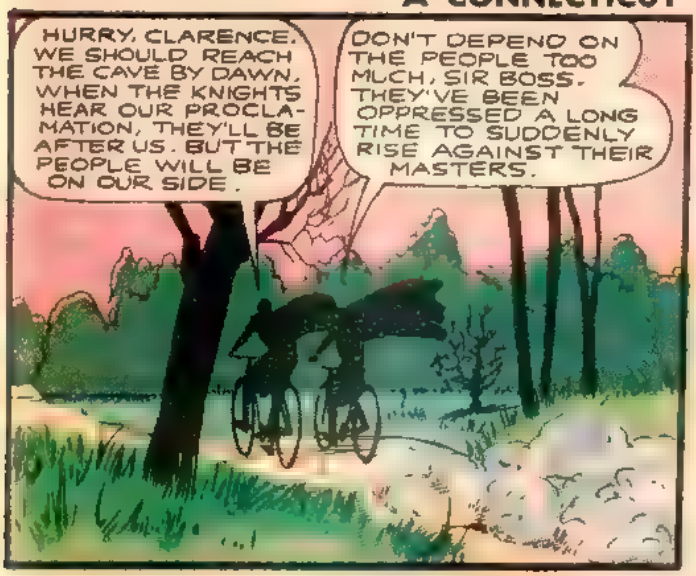

NOT EVEN A GUARD AT THE WALL!

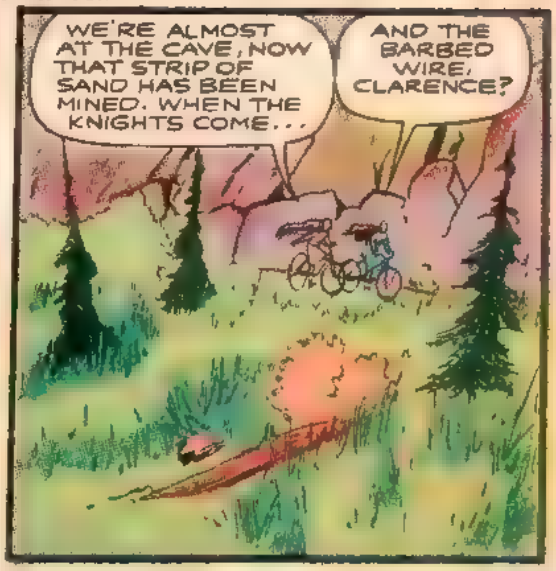

CLARENCE! WHAT'S HAPPENED!
ARTHUR IS DEAD! HE AND SIR LAUNCELOT AND SIR MORDRED HAVE BEEN FIGHTING. ALL THREE WERE KILLED!

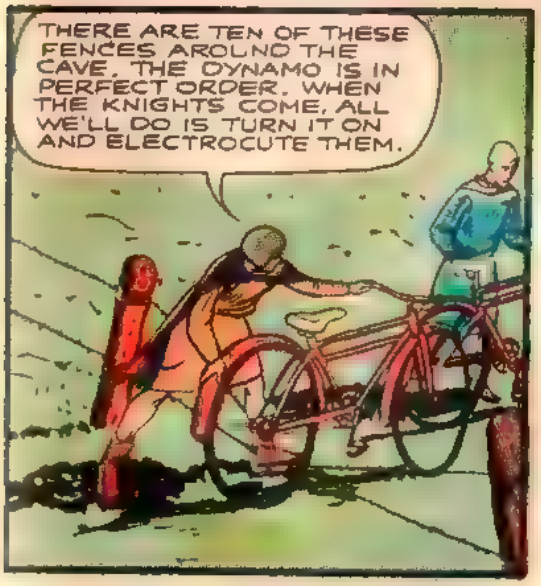
ARTHUR, DEAD? AND LAUNCELOT.
THAT'S NOT THE WORST, SIR BOSS. THE CHURCH TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE FIGHTING TO PROCLAIM A BAN AGAINST YOU. ALL THE KNIGHTS OF ENGLAND ARE ARMING TO FIGHT YOU!

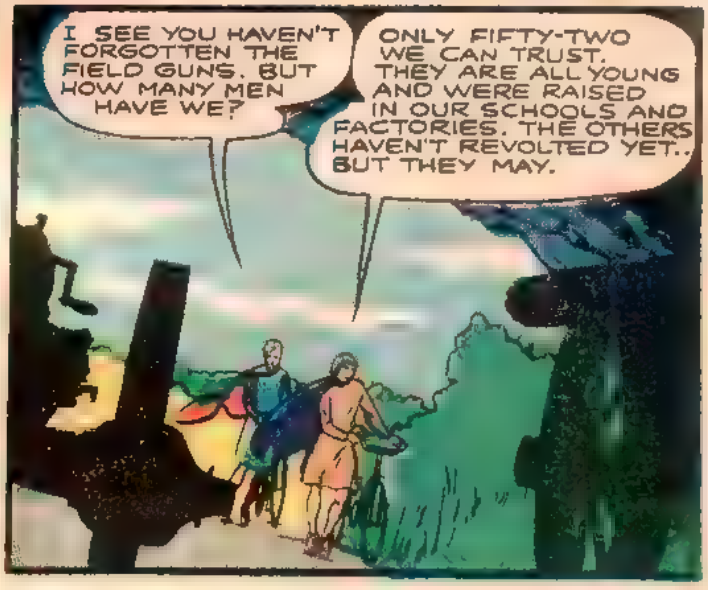
THEY ARE, EH? WE'LL GO TO THE CAVE AND CHALLENGE THE KNIGHTS. WE'RE GOING TO PROCLAIM A REPUBLIC! COME ALONG!

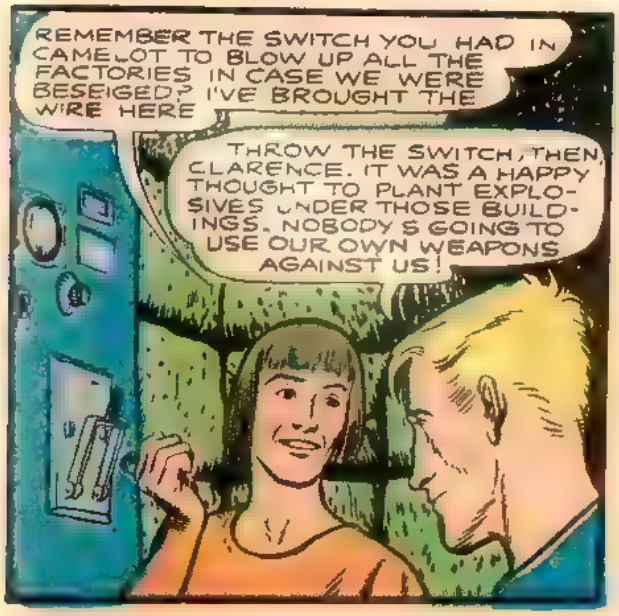
A CONNECTICUT YANKEE

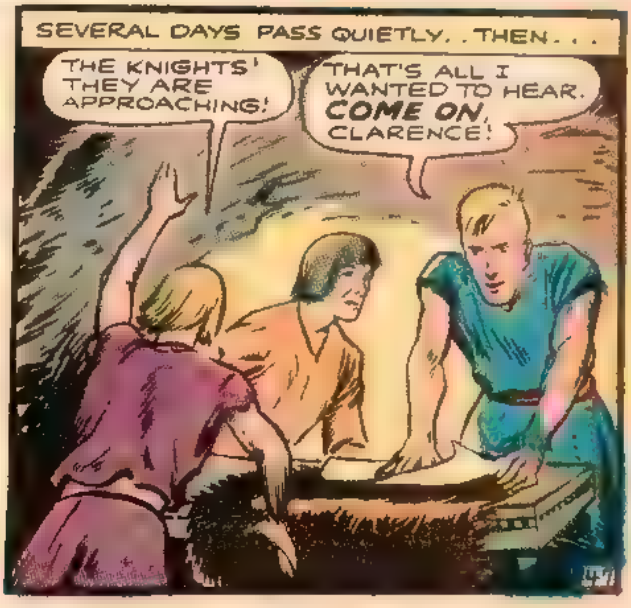




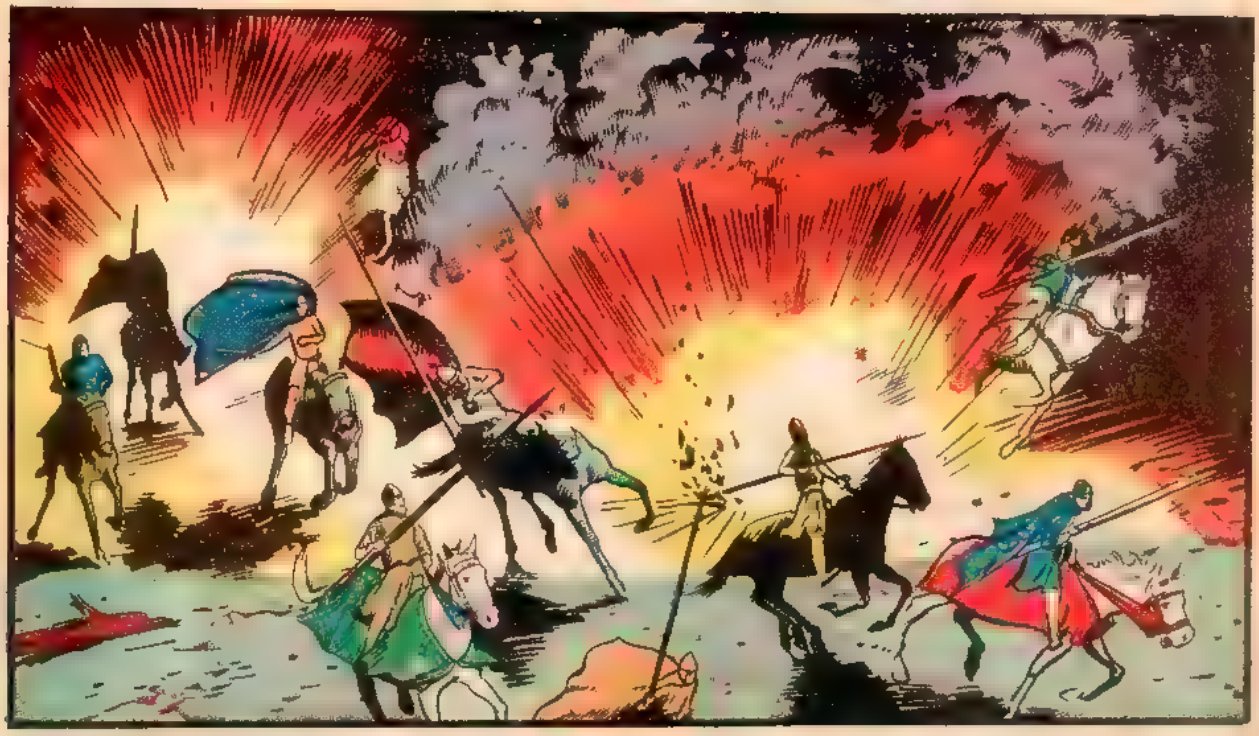


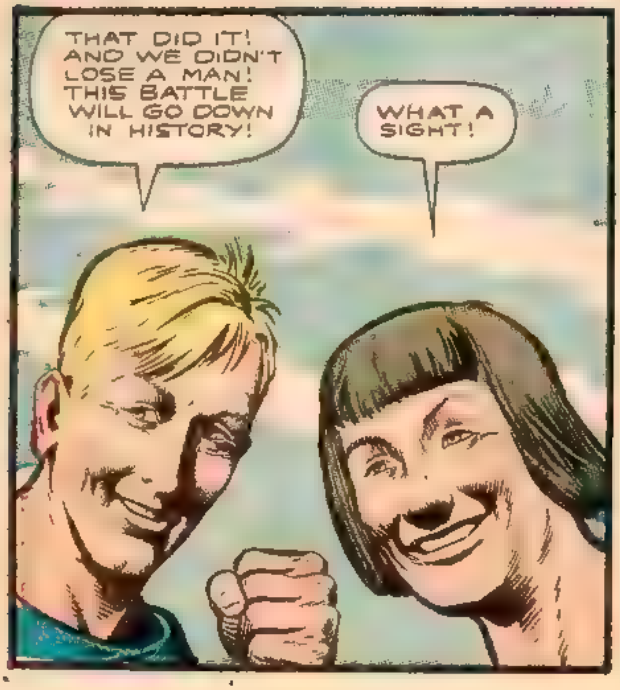




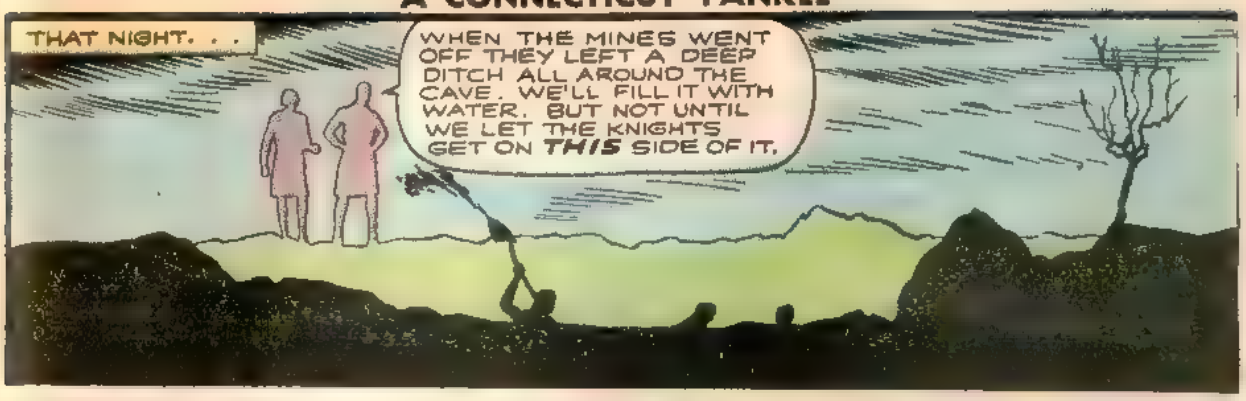


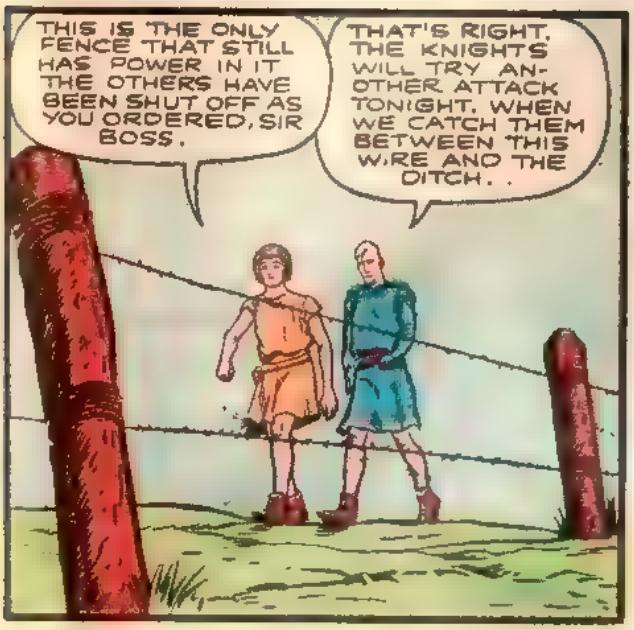
THERE MUST BE TWENTY FIVE HUNDRED OF THEM APPROACHING. WAIT 'TIL THEY HIT THOSE MINES!



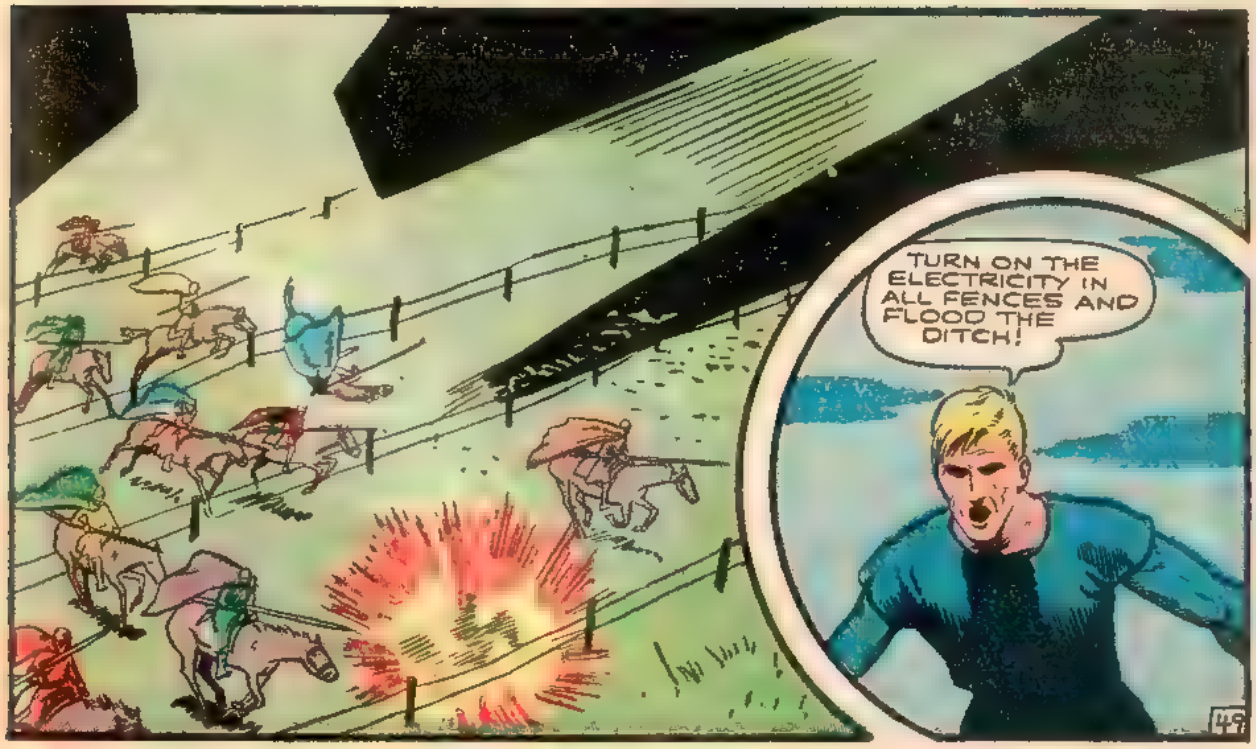

THAT DID IT! AND WE DIDN'T LOSE A MAN! THIS BATTLE WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY!
WHAT A SIGHT!

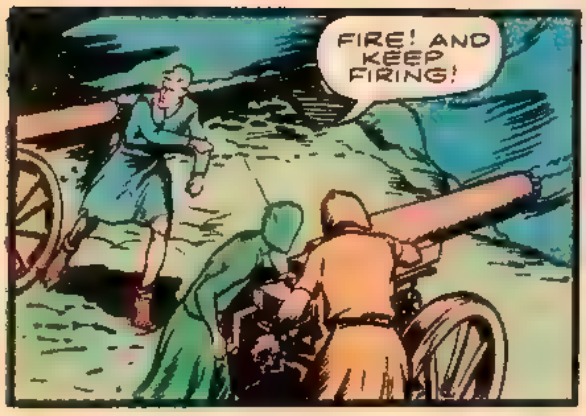
WE'VE WON THE WAR SEND A MAN UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE TO BRING THEM OUR TERMS
IT WOULD MEAN WASTING A MAN S R BOSS. THEY'LL ACCEPT NO PEACE FROM US


THAT NIGHT. . .
WHEN THE MINES WENT OFF THEY LEFT A DEEP DITCH ALL AROUND THE CAVE. WE'LL FILL IT WITH WATER. BUT NOT UNTIL WE LET THE KNIGHTS GET ON THIS SIDE OF IT.


THIS IS THE ONLY FENCE THAT STILL HAS POWER IN IT THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN SHUT OFF AS YOU ORDERED, SIR BOSS.
THAT'S RIGHT. THE KNIGHTS WILL TRY ANOTHER ATTACK TONIGHT. WHEN WE CATCH THEM BETWEEN THIS WIRE AND THE DITCH. .

LOOK, SIR BOSS! THEY'VE ALREADY TRIED!
QUICK! THE FLOODLIGHTS!


TURN ON THE ELECTRICITY IN ALL FENCES AND FLOOD THE DITCH!



THUS THE KNIGHTS WERE RENDERED HELPLESS. THOSE WHO ESCAPED ELECTROCUTION ON THE BARBED WIRE FENCES, WERE BATTERED BY THE GATLING GUNS. A FEW ESCAPED TO THE DITCH ONLY TO FACE DEEP WATER. THEY COULDN'T SWIM WITH THE BURDEN OF ARMOR THEY WORE.. NOT ONE KNIGHT ESCAPED ALIVE . . .

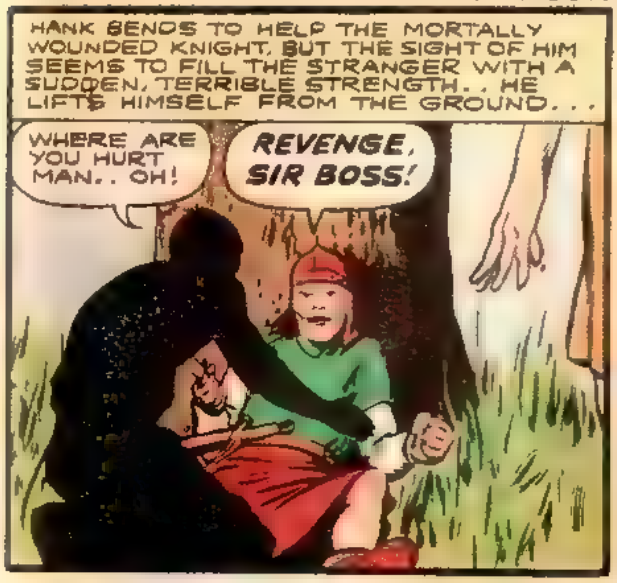
BOYS, WE'VE REALLY WON THIS TIME! WE'VE DEFEATED THE UNITED CHIVALRY OF ***ENGLAND!***

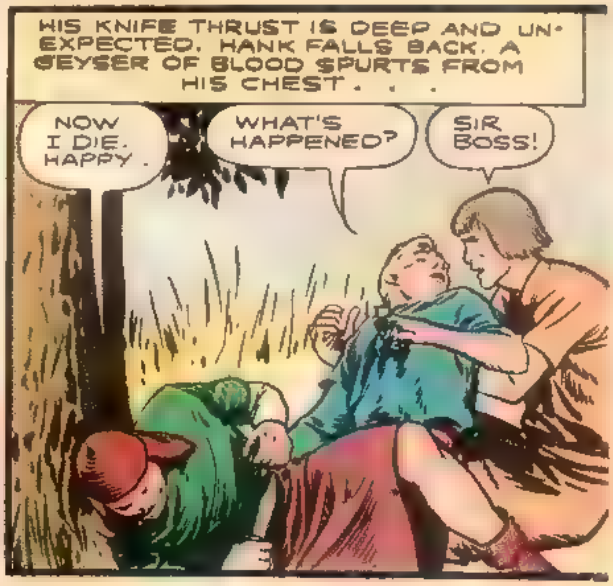
VICTORIOUS, YET MERCIFUL AT HEART, HANK DESIRED TO HELP THE MORTALLY WOUNDED. . .

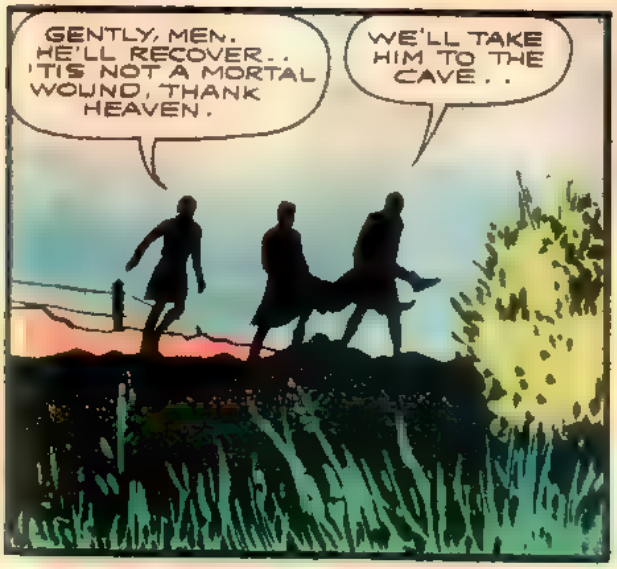
'TIS ONLY HUMAN KINDNESS, CLARENCE...

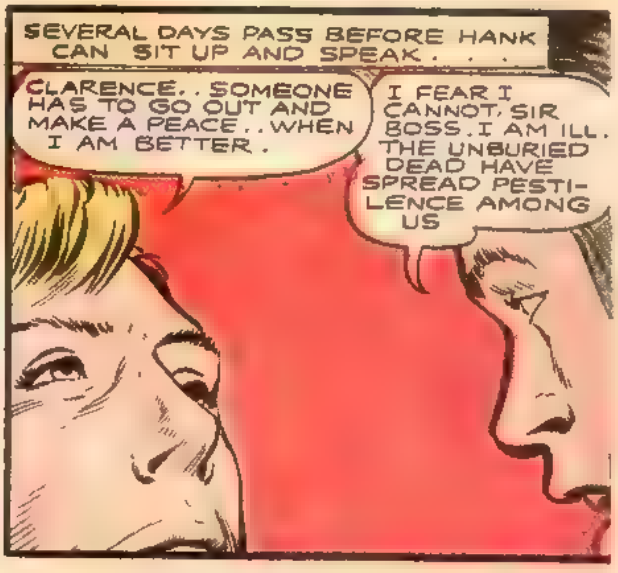
I CAUTION YOU, SIR BOSS...

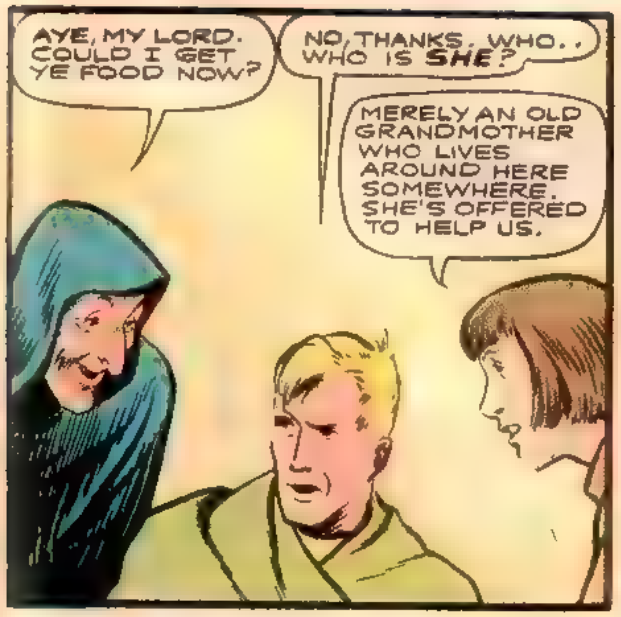
A CONNECTICUT YANKEE

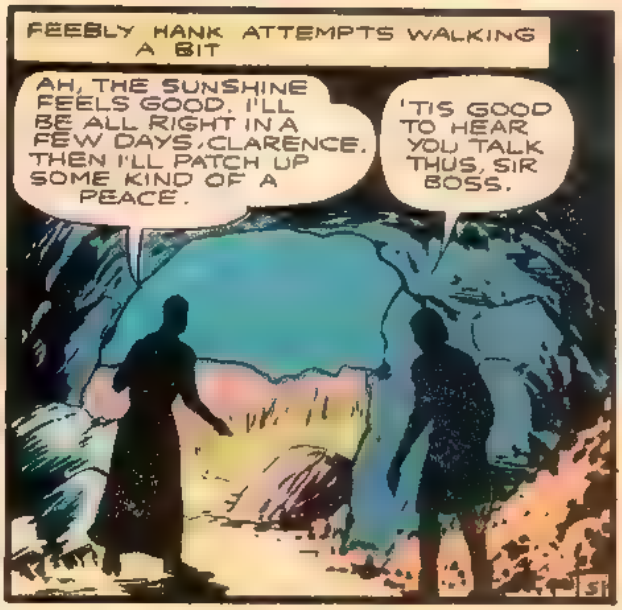


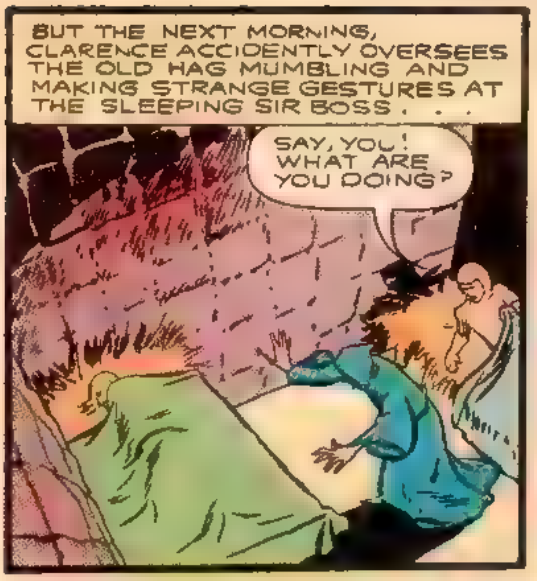


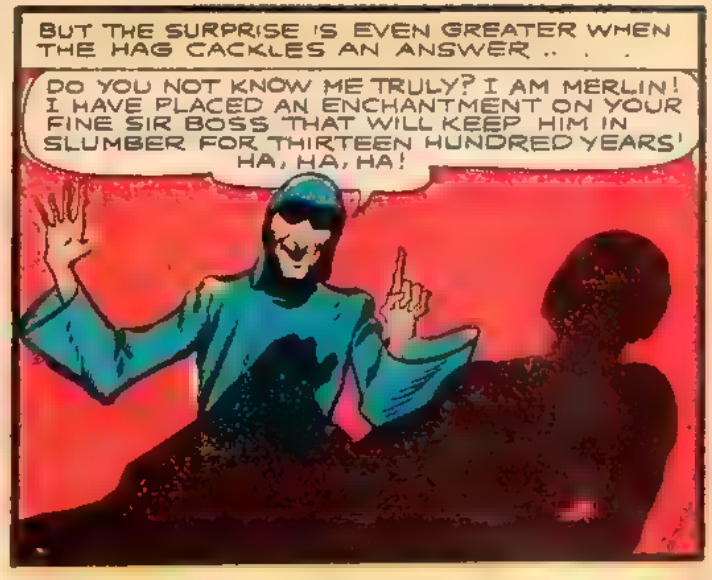


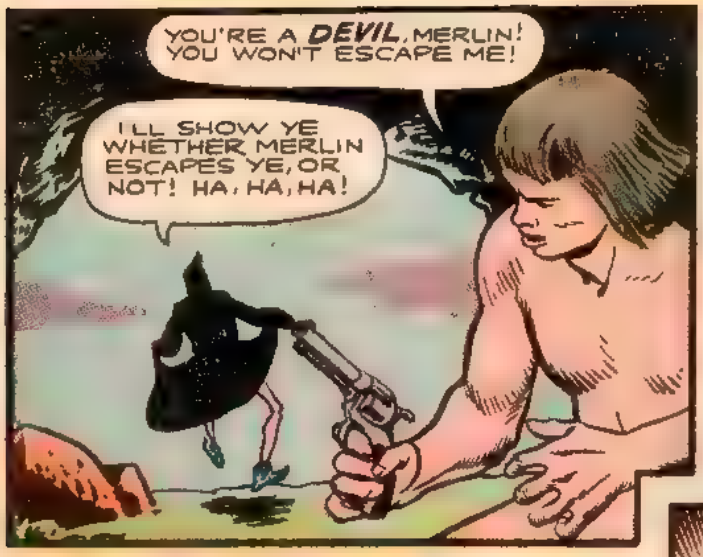


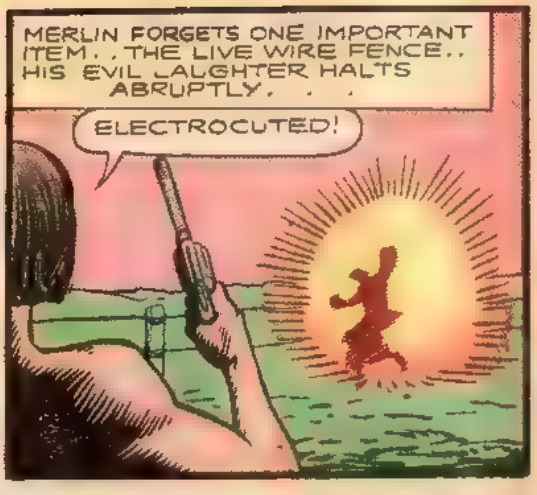




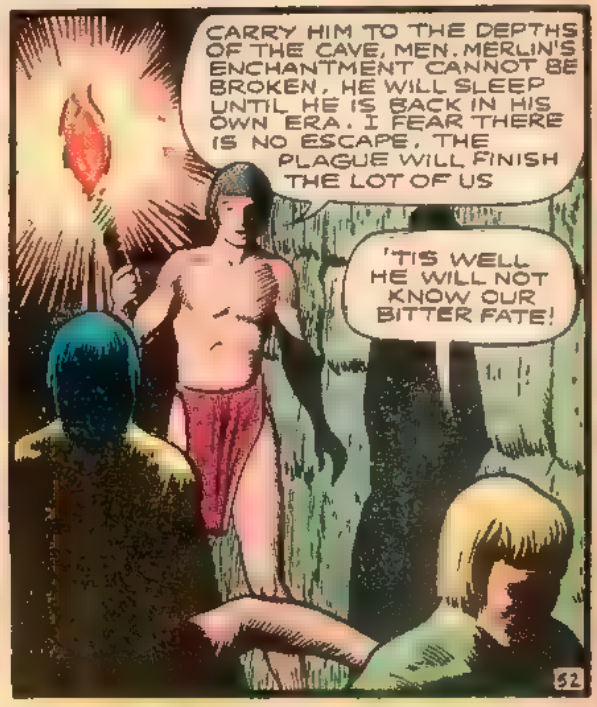

BUT THE NEXT MORNING, CLARENCE ACCIDENTLY OVERSEES THE OLD HAG MUMBLING AND MAKING STRANGE GESTURES AT THE SLEEPING SIR BOSS . . .
SAY, YOU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

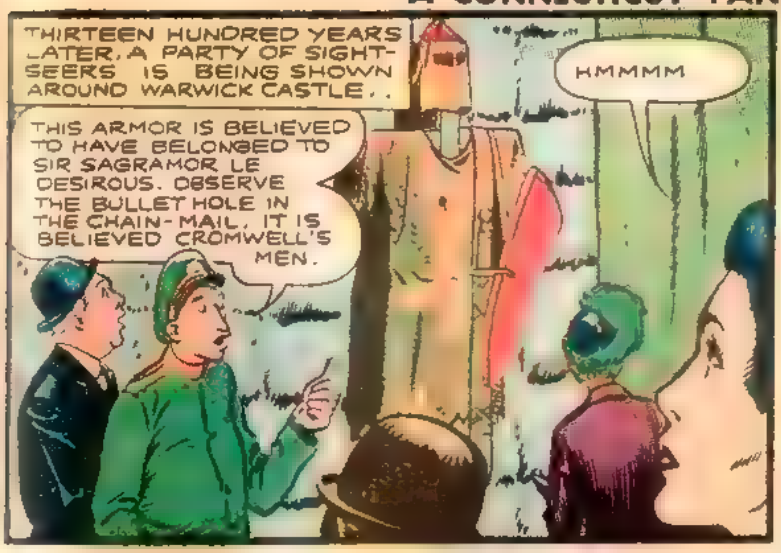

BUT THE SURPRISE IS EVEN GREATER WHEN THE HAG CACKLES AN ANSWER . . .
DO YOU NOT KNOW ME TRULY? I AM MERLIN! I HAVE PLACED AN ENCHANTMENT ON YOUR FINE SIR BOSS THAT WILL KEEP HIM IN SLUMBER FOR THIRTEEN HUNDRED YEARS! HA, HA, HA!


YOU'RE A DEVIL, MERLIN! YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME!
I'LL SHOW YE WHETHER MERLIN ESCAPES YE, OR NOT! HA, HA, HA!

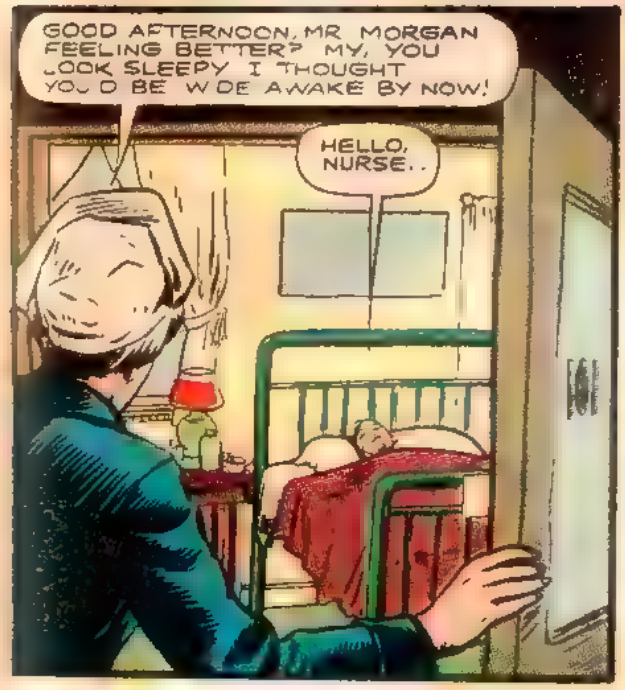

MERLIN FORGETS ONE IMPORTANT ITEM . . THE LIVE WIRE FENCE . . HIS EVIL LAUGHTER HALTS ABRUPTLY . . .
ELECTROCUTED!

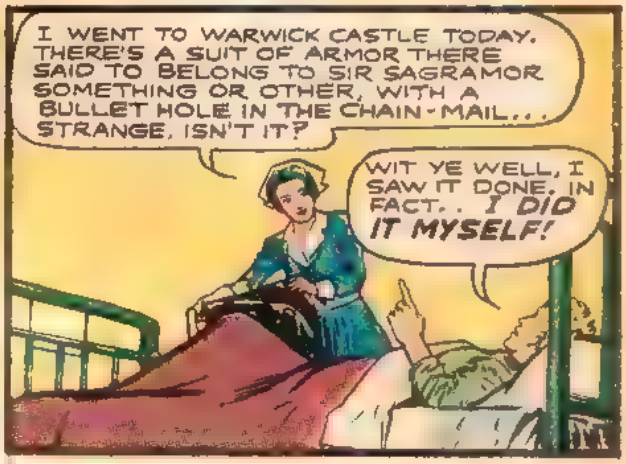
SIR BOSS! SIR BOSS! AWAKEN, I'VE NEWS FOR YE . . MERLIN IS DEAD . . SIR BOSS! HE WON'T COME TO! SIR BOSS! OPEN YOUR EYES . . .

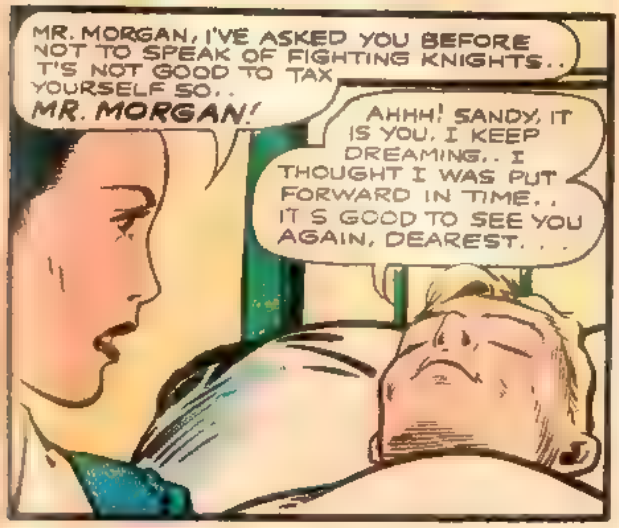

CARRY HIM TO THE DEPTHS OF THE CAVE, MEN. MERLIN'S ENCHANTMENT CANNOT BE BROKEN, HE WILL SLEEP UNTIL HE IS BACK IN HIS OWN ERA. I FEAR THERE IS NO ESCAPE. THE PLAGUE WILL FINISH THE LOT OF US
'TIS WELL HE WILL NOT KNOW OUR BITTER FATE!


THIRTEEN HUNDRED YEARS LATER, A PARTY OF SIGHT-SEERS IS BEING SHOWN AROUND WARWICK CASTLE..
THIS ARMOR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BELONGED TO SIR SAGRAMOR LE DESIROUS. OBSERVE THE BULLET HOLE IN THE CHAIN-MAIL. IT IS BELIEVED CROMWELL'S MEN.
HMMMM

I WONDER.. PERHAPS...

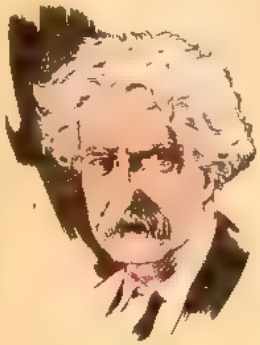

GOOD AFTERNOON, MR MORGAN FEELING BETTER? MY, YOU LOOK SLEEPY I THOUGHT YOU'D BE WIDE AWAKE BY NOW!
HELLO, NURSE..


I WENT TO WARWICK CASTLE TODAY. THERE'S A SUIT OF ARMOR THERE SAID TO BELONG TO SIR SAGRAMOR SOMETHING OR OTHER, WITH A BULLET HOLE IN THE CHAIN-MAIL... STRANGE, ISN'T IT?
WIT YE WELL, I SAW IT DONE. IN FACT.. I DID IT MYSELF!


MR. MORGAN, I'VE ASKED YOU BEFORE NOT TO SPEAK OF FIGHTING KNIGHTS.. IT'S NOT GOOD TO TAX YOURSELF SO.. MR. MORGAN!
AHHH! SANDY, IT IS YOU. I KEEP DREAMING.. I THOUGHT I WAS PUT FORWARD IN TIME.. IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, DEAREST...

FUNNY.. ME THINKING YOU WERE A NURSE, SANDY. WELL.. NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, I THINK I'LL REST AWHILE BEFORE JOINING ARTHUR AND THE OTHERS...
HIS PULSE IS THREADING OUT. YES, HE WILL REST.. IN END-LESS PEACE. A STRANGE MAN. I'D ALMOST BE-LIEVE HIS STORIES OF KING ARTHUR'S COURT IF I DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD BEEN STRUCK ON THE HEAD...
The End.

SAMUEL LANGHORNE CLEMENS
"MARK TWAIN"



Master humorist, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known by the pseudonym "Mark Twain," was a native son of Florida in Missouri—born November 30th, 1835. His impressions of life on the Mississippi River were probably taken from his personal experiences. While his formal education was brief, the associations and activities of his boyhood furnished the rich material he immortalized in many tales.

The fact is little known that he was not the first, but rather the second to use the pen name "Mark Twain." A writer on the New Orleans Picayune, Isaiah Sellers, used it before him. The name itself was an expression used by leadsmen on the river to take soundings—their cry being, "Mark half, mark one, mark twain, etc."—"Mark twain"—pointed out the depth of two fathoms.

The life of Samuel Clemens shows, beneath, at what times appears a reckless levity, a clear-eyed shrewdness and hard-common sense. His works demonstrate literary fertility, a breadth of scope and the masterful handling of many topics and subjects.

After the death of his father in 1847, Mark Twain worked a few years for his brother, Orion, on the Hannibal Journal, and then made his way to cities in the East, Middle West and to California. Ten years later, while on his way to New Orleans on a business venture, he decided suddenly to become a river pilot. It was there he came to know the river and its people so well.

Clemens later returned to work on a project with his brother, Orion, and soon thereafter, turned up on the staff of the Virginia City Enterprise. It was there he first used the pen-name, "Mark Twain."

Fate and fortune were served in large portions to the great writer, and whether it is true that he laughed at life or was a bitter cynic is a secret that he took with him when he died in Redding, Connecticut, in 1910.

Mark Twain is among our great American authors; his books will live forever. Among his most famous works are:

TOM SAWYER, HUCKLEBERRY FINN, THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER, THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER, A TRAMP ABROAD, THE INNOCENTS ABROAD, PUDD'NHEAD WILSON, A CONNECTICUT YANKEE, THE CELEBRATED JUMPING FROG OF CALAVERAS, THE MAN WHO CORRUPTED HADLEYBERG, JOAN OF ARC, FOLLOWING THE EQUATOR.

No mention of Mark Twain's name is complete without some anecdotes displaying his keen wit, of which the following are a few.

"I was gratified to be able to answer promptly, and I did. I said I didn't know."
IBID

"He is now fast rising from affluence to poverty." HENRY WARD BEECHER'S FARM

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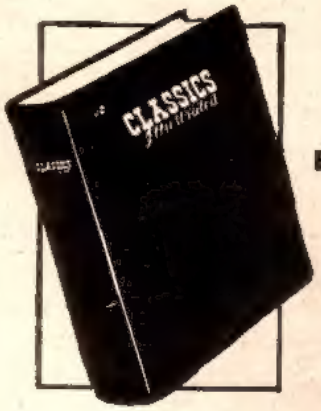

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